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Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Constitutionality of SAFE Act challenged

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. Army veteran Paul M. Murphy is challenging the constitutionality of some provisions in the newly enacted law, Special Act for Firearms Enforcement that extensively revised the gun control laws of the CNMI.

Murphy argued that the enforcement of some provisions in the SAFE Act and CNMI Weapons Control Act has and continues to violate his 2nd and 14th Amendment rights.

Murphy raised his challenge in his fourth amended complaint that he filed pro se or without a lawyer in federal court on Friday.

See SAFE on Page 4

CHCC: We provide best quality healthcare

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. said it is providing the best quality healthcare in the CNMI—despite recent criticism raised by members of the public.

Muña

Letters to the Editor sent to *Saipan Tribune* by Caroline H. Aldan complained of "quantity horrible care" at the CNMI's only hospital.

Aldan shared her frustration when her brother who had severe abdominal pain, nausea, and vomiting was allegedly given medicine that he was allergic to when he was brought to the emergency room despite the staff being informed. Aldan was also upset when she said the hospital did not give them discharge papers for her brother's visit.

On another letter, Aldan aired another complaint when this time, her mother was brought to the emergency room due to low blood sugar and was allegedly told to buy the food that her mom needs. She said her mother was discharged without

See CHCC on Page 4

CNMI officials pay final respects to Manglona

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

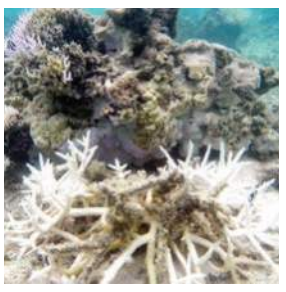
The island of Rota paid final respects to its former mayor and the first lieutenant governor from the island, Benjamin Taisacan Manglona, during a state memorial services at the Rota Municipal Roundhouse in Songsong Village yesterday.

The roundhouse was packed with family, friends, and government officials both local and visiting, who gathered to mourn and pay the final respects to Manglona, widely acknowledged as a respected statesman and one of the Commonwealth's founding fathers.

See MANGLONA on Page 4

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Lawmakers pay final respects to former lieutenant governor Benjamin Taisacan Manglona at the Rota Roundhouse in Songsong Village, Rota, yesterday. From left, House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan) and Reps. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), Ramon Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), Glenn Maratita (R-Rota), and Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan).

INSIDE



LOCAL
Coral bleaching is fast becoming a major issue in various waters of the world and the Pacific Ocean is in the frontlines.
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BUSINESS
Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla announced that Puerto Rico's government will not make nearly $370 million in bond payments.
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OVERDRIVE
The Alfa Romeo 4C is back for 2016. It's still so loud you'll barely hear the all-new sound system.
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Local

Ex-DPS chief asks court to consider his defense

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former Department of Public Safety commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero is asking the Superior Court "in the interest of justice" to consider at the preliminary hearing his and co-defendant Jesse S. Concepcion's affirmative defense that they believed then that the girl they allegedly sexually assaulted was not a minor.

» Reiterates he's not aware girl was a minor

In Deleon Guerrero's opposition yesterday to the government's opening brief on the affirmative defense issue, defense counsel Matthew J. Holley noted that from the very same reports that the government wishes to establish probable cause, they elicited evidence that the defendants reasonably believed that the alleged victim was not a minor.

Holley said CNMI law requires that the accused be permitted to raise an affirmative defense at the preliminary hearing.

Holley said an affirmative defense, by its very nature, is the gateway for the court to weed out groundless claims.

The lawyer said pursuant to a statute, if the accused so chooses, the court must allow him to present evidence on his own behalf, including any evidence supporting an affirmative defense, in the court's determination of probable cause.

In the government's brief, the Office of the Attorney General said the court should not allow Deleon Guerrero and Concepcion to sidestep a jury trial by permitting them to present an affirmative defense at the preliminary hearing stage.

Assistant attorney general Matthew Baisley said Deleon Guerrero and Concepcion, both seasoned police officers, are presenting the affirmative defense that they believed a 15-year-old girl was 24, 19, or 18, depending on which of their statements one chooses to believe.

Baisley said according to the defendants, they need not present this defense to a jury of their peers—a defense that revolves exclusively around their credibility and the credibility of their statements—but instead should be permitted to sidestep a jury trial, and have this court grant a defense for which they have yet to produce a single piece of admissible evidence.

"While defendants' brazenness is unparalleled, their position is easily answered," the prosecutor said.

At a preliminary hearing last April 22, Federal Bureau of Investigation special agent Haejun Park testified that Deleon Guerrero and Concepcion confessed during his interview

See EX-DPS on Page 3

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Kilili: NMI provisions in Defense bill 'intact'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

U.S. Department of Defense funding provisions for the Northern Marianas remain intact after the House Armed Service Committee voted for the FY 2017 defense budget for fiscal year 2017, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

Sablan

In his newsletter Saturday, Sablan says the committee, in a 60-2 vote, kept provisions adopted by its Readiness committee intact.

These include language, included at Sablan's request, to direct the secretary of Defense to set out a plan to establish a National Guard unit in the CNMI, after it was found feasible last year.

The bill also keeps provisions to require the military to provide a full briefing to the committee on how it would address serious public concerns raised about live-fire training on Tinian or Pagan within 30 days that a "Final Revised Environmental Impact Statement" for the project is issued.

The bill also requires further analysis of "alternatives" for a divert airfield, suggesting the Freely Associated States, even as the local government and U.S. Air Force officials discuss agreements for divert airfield to be sited on Tinian.

The military will have to demonstrate that it has considered alternative divert field locations, such as the Freely Associated States, before any of the $9 million set aside for land acquisition in the Marianas for this purpose can be used," Sablan said.

The existing $29.3 million for divert field project is also not reauthorized in the latest form of the military budget, or National Defense Authorization Act.

"The Defense bill does not include extension of availability of $29.3 million previously okayed for divert field expenditure in the Northern Marianas, because the Air Force is unable to answer questions about the cost, scope, and specific location of the three projects the money would have been used for," Sablan said.

BECQ collects more than 1K lbs of trash

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

More than 1,000 lbs of trash was collected by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality and its volunteers during its Island Wide Cleanup last Friday.

The IWC was held as part of the Environmental Awareness Month celebrations last April and was deemed a huge success.

BECQ said they have collected roughly 1,100 lbs of trash that was removed from the beaches and road sides. The collected trash was properly disposed of.

BECQ thanked its 754 volunteers who participated in the event.

Another cleanup event will be held again on Saturday, May 7, when the BECQ Cleanup Brigade will be at it again picking up trash at Tank Beach starting at 8am.

"If you would like to volunteer your time to clean and beautify our island, please meet the BECQ representatives on Saturday at Tank Beach at 8 am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed," BECQ said.

BECQ added that the outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least ten monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a brigade t-shirt this month.

"The BECQ is looking forward to a repeat success on Saturday, so join BECQ's monthly cleanup brigade and "Pick It Up!" Let us work together for the health of our coral reefs and cleanliness of our beaches for everyone to enjoy," the bureau said.

For more information about volunteering, contact the BECQ office at 664-8500/1.

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Saipan Tribune

"I want to go shopping!"

EX-DPS

From Page 2

that they had sex with a girl at a secluded San Antonio beach site in June 2013.

Park said Deleon Guerrero, 44, and Concepcion, 45, were surprised when he told them that the girl was a minor and was then only 15 years old.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho continued the preliminary hearing to May 9, 2016 at 1:30pm after an issue arose regarding affirmative defense.

Camacho ordered the prosecution and the defense counsel to submit briefs on the affirmative defense issue.

The issue was that "in a prosecution under 6 CMC 1303-1309, whenever a provision of law defining an offense depends upon a victim being under a certain age, it is an affirmative defense that, at the time of the alleged offense, the defendant reasonably believed the victim to be that age or older, unless the victim was under 13 years of age at the time of the alleged offense."

OAG charged Deleon Guerrero and Concepcion each with one count of sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree, two counts of misconduct in public office, and two counts of conspiracy to commit sexual abuse of a minor in the first degree.

The defendants are both under house arrest after posting $15,000 and $10,000 cash bail plus property, respectively.

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Aldan recognized for 'Excellence in State MCH Leadership'

The top official of the Division of Public Health Services of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. was the first to be awarded a state maternal and child health leadership award in the Pacific.

DPH director Margarita Torres Aldan was recently recognized for "Excellence in State MCH Leadership" by the Association of Maternal and Child Health Program.

The award is given to an outstanding state MCH professional whose career has made significant contributions to the health of women, children, and families in their state.

It recognizes an outstanding state MCH professional whose career in MCH has made significant contributions to their state's MCH program, state maternal and child health outcomes, and made other significant contributions to promoting and protecting the health of women, children, and families in their state.

It recognizes MCH leaders who inspires and brings people together to achieve sustainable results to improve the lives of the MCH population.

Aldan received the award in recognition of her efforts in coordinating health care during the recovery period after the devastating impact of Typhoon Soudelor that struck Saipan on August last year.

Aldan received the award at the AMCHP Conference in Washington, D.C. held earlier in April, and was recognized locally at the Women's Health Month kickoff celebrations.

Prior to being the DPH director, Aldan served as the Maternal and Child Health Program coordinator.

Aldan's colleagues said they are proud of her achievement and praised the good work she has done.

"It has been a privilege and a pleasure to work with Margarita. We were so thrilled and please when she was nominated for and won," CHCC-OBGYN Department chair Dr. Jeanolivia Grant said.

"Congratulations to Margarita Torres Aldan for achieving this award, the very first to be presented to someone in the Pacific Basin jurisdictions," she added.

"We're so excited and we're so proud of her because her occupation, her work has been recognized, first of all it really puts the CNMI on the map, but most importantly its recognizing her work, we recognize her work and it's really just amazing that even in the 50 states in the program, basically they recognized her as well," CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muna said.

"To have individuals that have the passion to work in those things in trying to get the community to bring them to that status [of equity in the mainland], is amazing and it's really appreciative and I'm really proud of her," she added. ***(Frauleine Villanueva-Dizon)***

Prep classes increase KHS' students' college chances

Kagman High School's college preparatory classes increased the chances of several of their students in getting college education. KHS' Million Dollar Scholar program was launched late last year to help 21 of their top students get into college.

The program was a brainchild of KHS' teaching staff led by principal Leila Staffler with Gerard van Gils as head mentor. van Gils had been busy promoting and seeking assistance from businesses and other non-government organizations to help the program.

van Gils said the program helped the students with their college and scholarship applications, and SAT preparations.

Six were accepted in the Gates Millennium Scholars, five are finalists in the Asia-Pacific Islander Scholarship while others earned other scholarships—full or reduced—from the university they are going to in the mainland.

"This success is explained by the dramatic increase in college preparation assistance that has been offered to our students including scholarship application help, college application help, and SAT preparation," said van Gils.

"Our school, under the direction of our principal [Staffler], had done more than ever to help our students to be college and career ready. At KHS we make scholars and we're proud of our students and especially congratulate the graduates of class 2016."

Casey Babauta and Karen Laoyan (Utah State University); Elizabeth Basa, Victor Castro, and Nimei George (Eastern Oregon University); and Josepha Cabrera (Hollins University) are the six Gates scholars. Cabrera also received $92,000 from the Hollins Recognition award.

van Gils said their students also received numerous other scholarships with the total amount awarded exceeding $2.5 million.

Alex Litulumar and Mikeala San Nicolas earned in-state scholarships at Utah State University with Lilly Jean Bautista duplicating the feat at Dixie State University while Peter Santos and Kiara Peters will be receiving the $44,000 Presidential Scholarship at Washington State.

Coreen Ramon (Utah State); Asako Camacho (The Art Institute of Seattle); Sarah Kapileo (Eastern Oregon University); and Viron Tenorio, Vanessa Abraham, Richelle Castro, Allison Arellano, Jerry Borja, and Fatimah Blake at Dixie State earned WICHE Tuition Reduction awards.

Jessa Camacho will be going to Central Washington University on a full tuition and board for four years valued at $140,000. Foysal Sojib and Jesus Pua, on the other hand, chose to study at Northern Marianas College. ***(Jon Perez)***

SAFE

From Page 1

In the new complaint, the plaintiff substituted Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert A. Guerrero as co-defendant of Department of Finance Secretary Larissa Larson. James C. Deleon Guerrero was removed as defendant in this case because he is no longer the DPS commissioner.

Murphy asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to issue a preliminary and permanent injunctions enjoining DPS Commissioner Guerrero from enforcing against him the firearms and ammunition storage restrictions and the prohibition on obtaining, owning, and possessing ammunition feeding devices of more than 10 rounds.

Murphy also asked the court to enjoin the ban on firearms in calibers other than .22 caliber rimfire, .22 caliber center fire, .223 caliber center-fire, and shotguns other than those in .410 gauge defined as "assault weapon[s]," and the firearms and ammunition licensing and registration schemes.

The plaintiff asked the court to enjoin Larson from authorizing and enforcing against him the withholding of his prohibited items currently being held in DPS custody, the ban on the importation of personal firearms currently being held in Guam, and any further provisions in the CNMI SAFE Act.

Murphy asked the court to issue a judgment declaring as unconstitutional the following:

■ The firearms and ammunition storage restrictions.

■ Criminalization of and restriction on ammunition feeding devices of more than 10 rounds.

■ Ban on firearms in calibers other than .22 caliber rimfire, .22 caliber center-fire, .223 caliber center-fire, and shotguns other than those in .410 gauge defined as "assault weapon."

■ The firearms and ammunition taxation schemes.

■ The firearms and ammunition licensing and registrations schemes; as applicable in the CNMI and to law abiding CNMI-U.S. citizens and nationals.

Murphy argued that the SAFE Act's firearms and ammunition storage requirements do not survive strict scrutiny.

Murphy said the restrictions do not burden only the "manner in which persons may exercise their 2nd Amendment right, but place a blanket restriction on all firearms.

He said the restrictions are so severe as to abolish the core lawful purpose of the right itself: Self-defense.

Murphy said the criminalization of and ban on ammunition feeding devices of more than 10 rounds does not survive scrutiny as it violates a constitutionally protected "arms."

Murphy said the ban on rifles in calibers other than .22 caliber rimfire, .22 caliber center-fire, .223 caliber center-fire, and shotguns other than .410 gauge defined as "assault weapon[s] do not survive intermediate scrutiny.

He said such ban singles out the 2nd Amendment for "specifically unfavorable treatment, significantly and severely burdens the core of the Second Amendment, and places a blanket restriction on constitutionally protected firearms."

Murphy said the tax requirements and fees on rifles and pistols singles out the 2nd Amendment for specifically unfavorable treatment and places a de fact ban on a whole class of firearms namely pistols.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona recently ruled that the Commonwealth's passing of SAFE appears to moot some issues in the lawsuit by Murphy, who sued over the alleged confiscation of his firearms and ammunition in 2002.

Manglona said with the CNMI's passing of SAFE Act, Murphy can now register a handgun in a caliber above .22, which is one of the issues in his lawsuit.

Manglona said the SAFE Act, which extensively revised the gun control laws of the CNMI, appears to leave others unresolved such as the ban on rifles in calibers greater than .223.

On March 28, 2016, Manglona issued a decision and order in another control case filed by U.S. Navy veteran David J. Radich and his wife, Li-Rong. In that order, the judge struck down the Commonwealth's ban on handguns for self-defense in the home.

In response, the CNMI passed SAFE Act.

The Office of the Attorney General recently notified the federal court that Murphy is now alleged to register his Glock pistol pursuant to Weapons Control Act.

Murphy alleged that DPS withheld all his firearms and ammunition until the issuance of a firearms, ammunition, and explosive identification card on Sept. 20, 2007.

He said his two firearms were sent to Guam Police Department armory for holding, while the ammunition is being held by the CNMI DPS Firearms Section. He said DPS has denied his repeated requests to carry and possess his rifle and pistol.

MANGLONA

From Page 1

Manglona passed away last April 24 at the age of 78. He was a two-term mayor of Rota and was lieutenant governor under former governor Lorenzo Guerrero administration from 1990 to 1994.

Funeral services for Manglona will be held today, May 3, at the San Francisco de Borja Church with Mass of Christian Burial scheduled for 10am, followed by burial at San Jose Cemetery.

The state memorial yesterday was full of pomp and tradition.

A spray of water greeted the body, which was brought into the circular meeting hall by a multi-agency honor guard component.

Honors from the executive, legislative, judiciary and municipal branches of government were given to Manglona family members.

A resolution from the Association of Mariana Island Mayors, which Manglona was a former member of, was presented to his widow Maria and his family,

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Manglona's former chief of staff and current Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig also paid tributes in their remarks.

In a moving gesture prior to ending his speech, Atalig saluted his boss of eight years as his body lay in state on Rota's capital.

This was also accompanied by a touching eulogy from Manglona's former political foe-turned-friend, Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog.

The ceremony was capped off with the singing of the Rota Municipal Anthem, "I Tano-Måmi" by schoolchildren from Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja.

Following the conclusion of the ceremony, the members of the Rota Legislative Delegation, Atalig and the Rota Municipal Council, Hocog, Torres and the family walked side by side with their late colleague and mentor for the final time, as pallbearers escorted the body out of the roundhouse.

CHCC

From Page 1

waiting to see if her numbers would go back up.

Aldan said she is only visiting Saipan and has now had two "horrendous experience" with the hospital.

"I hope whoever the director of that hospital corrects this and advocates for the rights of every patient that walks through those doors. How are the directors and administrators of the hospital chosen and do they have a medical background? I cannot comprehend how this happens and is acceptable," Aldan writes.

While CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muna declined to answer to specific complaints, she said that the hospital has a system in place to check the quality of their services.

"CHCC has a system of checking on our doctors, has a system to check for quality control," Muna said, "We have a system to check on our physicians whether they're doing their job, whether we're doing our job, that's what we do."

"We have a root cause analysis. Not every review requires a root cause analysis because sometimes the review shows that the doctor did everything right. That's the process that we follow and we do it consistently. We don't cover up," she added.

Risk communications specialist Jason Camacho added that they have a department and processes in place to address issues raised against the hospital.

"We already have a department—the corporate quality and performance department—that addresses those patients. If we have a patient that has a complaint, that's when we go to the process of incident reporting where it gets reported to our department and then we respond to it," Camacho said.

"What we want everyone to know is that patients do have rights and if they do have a complaint, they can go and file a patient's grievance form that's where we'll respond. That is the right way," he added.

Muna added that patients can even go to the regulating agency, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, should patients be uncomfortable filing their complaints to the hospital.

"They can even go as far as going straight to Medicare. That's not a problem. That's how confident we are about what we do," Muna said.

Muna said they check themselves and they get checked as well with regards to the services that they provide.

"We check ourselves from the front end to the back end," Muna said, "We get checked; we get reviewed by the CMS."

Asked if they are giving the best quality of health services to the public, Muna said "yes" adding that the hospital is still the best place to go to especially during emergencies.

"That's why we have a quality department to make sure that happens," Muna said.

"CHC is the best place you go to when you have an emergency," she added.

Pinoy artist to help promote Saipan

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

JON PEREZ
Filipino artist Khalil Ramos visited Saipan to shoot footages that will be used for a promotional video by an airline company.

Filipino artist Khalil Ramos visited Saipan to shoot some footage that will be used in videos co-owned by his production outfit, New Age Creatives, for a client that wants to promote the Marianas as an ideal get away.

Ramos is a contract artist of Star Magic, Philippine broadcast giant ABS-CBN's talent arm. He traveled with McCoy Tarnate, a cinematographer and lighting director at ABS-CBN productions.

They first went to Guam, arriving on April 29, to shoot the sites and places to go in the CNMI's southern island neighbor then spent two days on Saipan—May 1 and 2.

The 20-year-old singer-actor said the footages that they took would be turned into an in-flight video for an airline. Their client required them to produce a short travel video and they thought of Guam and Saipan in the Marianas.

"We first went around Guam to shoot some of the places there then here on Saipan. We also toured Saipan to see its sites," said Ramos, who learned about the island through a friend. "There are a lot of things to do around here and see historical sites."

He and Tarnate rode the Deepstar Submarine yesterday to see Saipan's underwater world filled with World War II wrecks and a wide variety of fish living in the coral reefs. The submarine goes underwater at a depth of 100 feet.

"It was my first submarine ride and the trip underwater was very relaxing. We have a lot of good footages for the promotional video," said Ramos, who is studying to move behind the camera.

"I want to learn new things. I'm still young so why not study filmmaking. Plus I get to apply what I learned from my production company," added Ramos, who has made his fifth trip outside the Philippines this year.

His job with his co-owned production company has brought him to Korea, Japan, New York, and recently to Guam and Saipan.

He knew that there's also a large Filipino community here on Saipan. "I really wanted to come here on Saipan for a long time. I've heard about the place and the people. It is a simple island with a lot of friendly people."

"I've met a lot of people, Filipinos and locals. I love the people here and they are always smiling. There a lot of happy people and this is a happy place," said Ramos, who was discovered after placing second in the reality talent show Pilipinas Got Talent aired in ABS-CBN.

He was first known as a singer but moved to acting and starred alongside stars Kathryn Bernardo and Daniel Padilla in the drama series *Princess and I*. He is also the host of *Filipino Ka, Sabihin Mo*—a show for learning about Filipino culture and language.

Raymond Cepeda
P.O. Box 505474
Saipan, MP 96950
235-2319/285-0714

Pro sec

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition for the Change of Name of: K.A.S.	)	FCD CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0119
Minor Child	)	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
By: Raymond M. Cepeda Petitioner	)	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on May 19, 2016 at 10:30 am in Courtroom 205A, before Honorable Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 1st day of April, 2016.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

‘No sign of recovery yet for affected corals in Saipan lagoon’

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
frauleine_villanueva@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Coral bleaching is fast becoming a major issue in various waters of the world and the Pacific Ocean is in the frontlines.

Recently, the famous Great Barrier Reef of Australia made headlines as scientists revealed that a staggering 93 percent of the Reef has been hit by coral bleaching.

Damage ranged from very severe to little from the north to south along the 2,300-kilometer length of the Reef. Some remote areas of the reef had an average of close to 50 percent mortality of bleached corals, with some reefs having a final death toll likely to exceed 90 percent, according to a report from the Australian Research Council’s Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies.

Coral bleaching is triggered by too warm sea temperatures which kill the zooxanthellae—the tiny, colorful marine algae, which live inside corals, providing them with much of their color and, most importantly, their primary supply of energy. Without these algae, coral tissue becomes transparent, revealing the white coral skeleton. Corals can die if unfavorable conditions persist.

The *New York Times* reported the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration saying that we are experiencing the longest global coral bleaching event ever observed.

It added that damaged or dying reefs have been found from Réunion, off the coast of Madagascar, to East Flores, Indonesia, and from Guam and Hawaii in the Pacific to the Florida Keys in the Atlantic.

No sign of recovery

In the CNMI, consecutive thermal stress and bleaching events since the summers of 2013 and 2014 were experienced.

“The staghorn Acropora spp. corals in the Saipan lagoon, which we are able to monitor fairly regularly, bleached severely in 2013, largely recovered during the winter months and then presumably bleached again in 2014 and largely died,” Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality lead marine biologist Lyza Johnston said.

“We lost over 85 percent of staghorn Acropora corals at long-term monitoring sites in the Saipan lagoon in this two-year period. Some other species in the lagoon, such as Isopora palifera, suffered some mortality as well,” she added.

BECQ monitor sites across Saipan, Tinian, and Rota every year. As of the 2015 data, there were no indications of recovery for corals just yet particularly in the Saipan lagoon.

“There was a lot of mortality in the Saipan lagoon of the staghorn corals and other sensitive species and there is no indication of recovery yet, but it will likely take a few years before we can detect growth. But, we are actively monitoring for any signs of recovery in the lagoon,” Johnston said.

Bleaching, high mortality in CNMI reefs

Some areas in the Northern Islands suffered bleaching and had high mortality rate based on the latest taken on the summer of 2014.

BECQ surveyed seven of the northern volcanic islands of the Mariana archipelago from June 21 to July 19, 2014, including the island of Maug where some of the most highly developed and diverse coral reef systems in the northern volcanic islands are located.

» Reefs in Northern Islands experienced bleaching, high mortality

“During the first trip, we saw moderate to severe active bleaching on several of the more northern islands, largely restricted to shallow water (above 10 meters). We also found that the more southern islands of Sarigan, Guguan, and Anatahan had experienced mass mortality of shallow water coral assemblages, likely due to the 2013 thermal stress event (as evident from standing dead coral colonies),” Johnston said.

“When we returned to Maug in August 2014, the reefs were severely bleached and there was already high mortality of the more sensitive species,” she added, “Percent corals bleached ranged from 85 percent to 95 percent across sites. Nearly all species were affected to depths of at least 20 meters.”

According to BECQ, the health of the coral reefs across the northern volcanic islands of the CNMI appears to be in decline overall.

BECQ is yet to return to the Northern Islands for further assessment.

“We don’t know if the bleached reefs in the Northern Islands recovered or not,” Johnston said, “We would love to get back up to the northern islands to see how they are doing post bleaching, but we have not identified a source of funding to do so yet.”

Keeping ecosystems healthy

While coral reef resilience is largely dependent of the overall health of the ecosystem, BECQ said evidence suggests that reducing or eliminating local stressors such as pollution and overfishing may greatly improve the resilience of reefs to climate change.

“We need to keep the corals and the reefs healthy by reducing land-based sources of pollution and supporting healthy herbivore populations. Corals that are exposed to increased nutrients and sedimentation are less resilient to thermal stress and bleach faster. Corals also compete with macroalgae for space so it’s important to have herbivorous fish and urchins to control growth of macroalgae so that the corals can recover from disturbance events,” Johnston said.

While there are those who are studying the aquaculture of coral reefs with coral farming or gardening, such program is yet to be looked into in the CNMI.

“Currently, there are no coral culturing or restoration programs in the CNMI, but we are actively exploring that option for the future,” Johnston said.

According to BECQ, the consecutive mass bleaching and mortality events across a region with little human influence highlight the importance of managing for coral reef resilience. It added that the CNMI is leading the way in these efforts, conducting one of the first field based coral reef resilience assessments to inform management.

Johnston added that she hopes to get a comprehensive “state-of-the-reef” report for the CNMI this 2016.

Yumuls help feed dogs at animal shelter

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Yumul family, led by former senator Ray Yumul, donated $600 worth of dog food to help feed the dogs at the at the animal shelter, which is being maintained by the Animal Control Office under the Saipan Mayor’s Office. Nonprofit group Saipan Cares for Animals is assisting them.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang and ACO program director Spencer Marchadesch accepted the 15 sacks of dog food from YCO Hardware-True Value owners Ray and Frances Yumul yesterday. SMO staff and True Value personnel were also present during the donation.

Ray Yumul said this is the second time that they have donated sacks of dog food to the mayor’s office for the dogs at the animal shelter.

“Hopefully we could do this regularly. We also sell pet supplies and we donate some to the mayor’s office. We have always helped the mayor’s office in any way that we can,” Yumul added.

He said that he encourages families who have pets, especially dogs, to have them either spayed or neutered to help control the animal population.

“Controlling the dog population on the islands is one of the main concerns by the mayor’s office. Tourism is getting bigger on Saipan and we don’t want our guests to be bitten by stray dogs,” added Yumul.

Apatang again thanked the Yumuls for their generosity and at the same time encouraged other business to do their share in helping with the daily operations of the animal shelter.

“The family of the former senator has always been one of the big contributors in some of our programs. People and businesses like theirs are the ones that help keep the shelter running,” said Apatang.

“We don’t have enough funds and this donation, providing food for the dogs at the shelter, is a big help. Some of the dogs are getting hungry and we feed them twice a day. This will help with their daily nourishment,” he added.

The animal shelter is now located in As Perdido, at the quarantine office of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, after transferring last month since the facility in Lower Base had been condemned by the Department of Public Works’ Building Safety Code Division.

The animal shelter in Lower Base sustained heavy structural damaged during Typhoon Soudelor with repair and renovation no longer possible. The location was also a flood zone area, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

JON PEREZ

Frances Yumul, fifth right, and son, former senatir Ray Yumul, fourth right, join their staff at YCO Hardware-True Value in turning over more than 10 sacks of dog food to the Saipan Mayor’s Office.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-DPS-098

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 12, 2016 **TIME: 10:30 A.M.**

“PURCHASE OF TEN (10) RADAR UNITS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, HIGHWAY SAFETY, SAIPAN DPS TRAFFIC SECTION”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ ROBERT A. GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB16-DPS-095

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 12, 2016 **TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

“PURCHASE OF ONE (1) LIGHT TOWER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY – HIGHWAY SAFETY, SAIPAN DPS TRAFFIC SECTION”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/S/ ROBERT A. GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

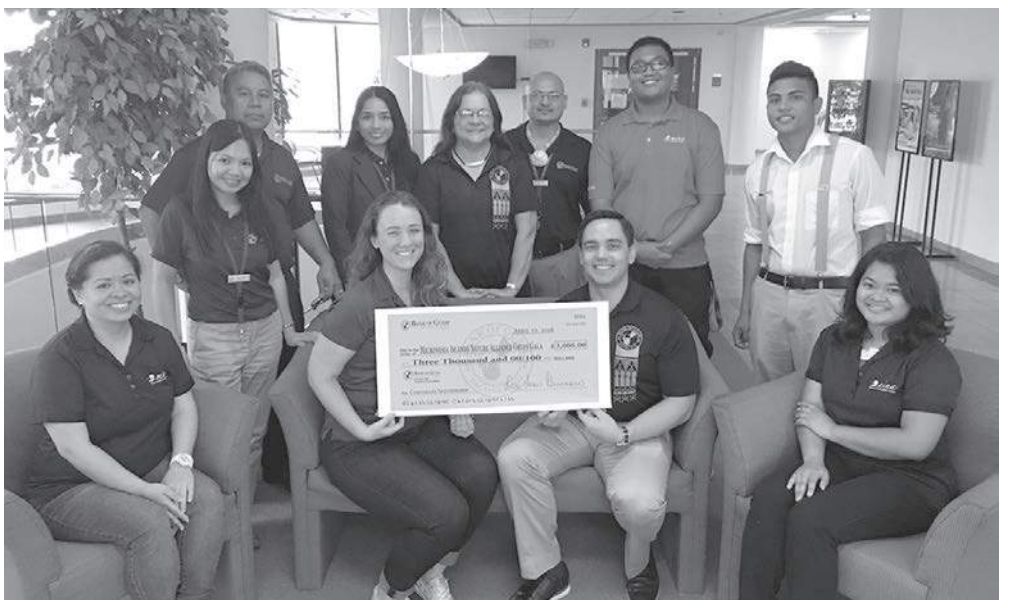
/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Bank of Guam is Green Gala title sponsor

Showing its support once again for conserving the islands' natural resources, Bank of Guam recently donated $3,000 to the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance. The donation was made as part of MINA's annual fundraising event, the Green Gala, which will be held on Friday, May 27, 2016.

The leading conservation nonprofit organization in the Commonwealth, MINA has worked to implement various conservation projects, including the Plastic Bag Challenge, the Schools for Environmental Conservation workshops, the Marine Debris Prevention program, Tasi Watch Program, the Adopt-A-Bin Project, and Managaha Pride Campaign.

In order to continue its efforts to preserve and protect the CNMI's environment and biodiversity, MINA is seeking the community's participation in the Green Gala event. The organization is supported by project grants and from generous contributions from local businesses and community members.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MINA executive director Brooke Nevitt accepts the donation from Bank of Guam executive vice president and chief sales and service officer Joaquin Cook. Standing, from left: Jessica Kisa, AC/Credit Officer; Larry Philip, VP/branch manager; Yvonne Deleon Guerrero, AVP/Credit Officer; Marcie Tomokane, VP/CNMI regional manager; Augustin Palacios, Jr., AVP/Credit Officer, and MINA Tasi Watch Community rangers Julius Reyes and Travis Atalig.

In addition to lively entertainment, dinner and a variety of beverages, the Green Gala will feature highlights from MINA's projects, a silent auction, and many other activities that promise a memorable evening to celebrate over ten years of working with island communities for conservation.

As the last Green Gala was sold out, organizers are encouraging those who plan to attend to buy their tickets early.

Tickets for the Green Gala event can be purchased at the MINA Office in Gualo Rai or from any of the volunteer board members.

To become a sponsor of the Green Gala, please contact Brooke Nevitt at 233-REEF (7333), or email minaoutreach@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Man arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting 2 women at Grotto

A man was arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting two women who were swimming at Grotto area in Marpi on Sunday morning.

Responding Police Officer Rodolfo arrested at the scene Mollik Sagar for two counts of sexual assault in the second degree, two counts of assault and battery, and two counts of disturbing the peace.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho maintained the bail at $30,000 cash and set the preliminary hearing for May 10 at 1:30pm.

Assistant public defender Cindy Nesbit was appointed as counsel for Sagar. A translator was also appointed because the defendant is a Bangladeshi who does not understand and read English.

Assistant attorney general Betsy Weintraub appeared for the government.

Police Detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that Officer Hermosilla responded to the Grotto on Sunday at 11:34am after a lifeguard called to report about a sexual assault incident.

The two Korean women, who were in a pavilion, told the officer that Sagar sexually assaulted them while they were swimming.

The women alleged that they arrived at Grotto, but they could not swim because they were not carrying life jackets.

The women said Sagar and another Bangladeshi man approached and asked to pay them $25 each in exchange for guiding them in the swimming area.

The women agreed because they know how to swim without life jackets.

One victim said Sagar followed her and kept pulling her to the cave area. The suspect also allegedly kept touching her thighs and buttocks despite her telling him to stop.

The first victim pulled Sagar's arm and hand away from her then swam toward the other man.

Sagar then approached the second woman, who later swam back to the first woman and started to cry.

The women said Sagar was probably thinking they're amateur swimmers when it was not the first time for them to dive/swim at the Grotto. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

CUC contractor to remove lead-based paint at reservoir

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public to take cautious measures when entering the Gualo Rai Tank area located on McArthur Drive, Gualo Rai.

CUC contractor, USA Fanter, will be removing lead-based paint at the Gualo Rai water reservoir, which is the first step of the reservoir removal process. USA Fanter will be taking all necessary precautions to minimize any particles of lead from entering the surroundings by placing a large tarp to enclose the construction site. Allied Pacific Environmental Consulting, Inc. (ApEC) has been hired to monitor the lead-based paint abatement process.

Residents who live near the reservoir are also advised to stay 50 feet away from the construction site. The removal process is scheduled to begin on Friday, May 6, 2016, and is estimated to be completed within two weeks. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https:/hvww.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilities-Comoration/).

This project is funded by the Department of the Interior-Office of Insular Affairs through the CNMI CIP Office. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-16-IFB-008

Rehabilitation of the Tanapag Basketball Court

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Rehabilitation of the Tanapag Basketball Court**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **April 26, 2016** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **May 12, 2016, 9:00 a.m. local time** at the Project Site, located at Tanapag, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **May 16, 2016** to **Mr. George C. Sablan, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. George C. Sablan, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW-16-IFB-008**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, May 31, 2016**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, May 31, 2016**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **May 31, 2016** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **June 07, 2016**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, June 09, 2016**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m. local time, May 31, 2016**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Sixty (60) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ **PETER P. CAMACHO**
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW-16-IFB-011

Construction of Boat Parking Area Fishing Base, Garapan, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Construction of Boat Parking Area Fishing Base, Garapan**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **May 03, 2016** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **May 19, 2016 , 9:00 a.m. local time** at Project Site, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **May 23, 2016** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW-16-IFB-011**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, June 15, 2016**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, June 15, 2016**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **June 15, 2016** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **June 27, 2016**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, June 29, 2016**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on June 15, 2016**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Sixty (60) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred Fifty (US$150.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ **JAMES A. ADA**
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director of Procurement & Supply

/s/ **RICHARD B. SEMAN**
Secretary of Department of Land and Natural Resources

27 take oath as newest US citizens

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For Maria Luningning Brillo Reyes, obtaining U.S. citizenship after working on Saipan for almost 26 years now means more freedom and more opportunities for federal jobs.

"I'm excited," said the 48-year-old Reyes on acquiring citizenship.

Reyes, a native of Meycauyan, Bulacan, in the Philippines, first arrived on the island to work as an accountant for a private company in December 1990.

Since 2007, she has been holding a green card through her employment. She then decided to just apply for citizenship instead of renewing her green card for another 10 years.

Reyes is currently the Pacific Islands Club's financial controller and the executive in charge for human resources. She is also the treasurer of the NMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management.

Her three children with *Saipan Tribune* art director Angel Reyes Jr. are currently staying in the U.S. mainland since Typhoon Soudelor struck the island last year.

For Enmanuel Alberto Cruzeta, who hails from the Dominican Republic, acquiring citizenship is a great blessing as this will provide him more opportunities and privileges.

"I feel very happy. It's a good feeling because many doors are now open," said Cruzeta who has been working for two years now at the Seventh Day Adventist as a teacher assistant.

Cruzeta is married to Denesee Walters from the U.S. Virgin Islands whom he met in Puerto Rico. From Massachusetts, the couple moved to Saipan.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy (standing extreme left), Immigration Services officer Diane S. Zedde (next to the judge), and Attorney General Edward Manibusan (standing extreme right) pose in a group photo with 27 new U.S. citizens during yesterday's naturalization ceremony in federal court.

For Amielou Fernando Horath, 32, obtaining the citizenship means more freedom.

"In terms of traveling, you own the world," said Horath, who is currently working as a front desk staff at the Saipan Country Club.

Horath, a native of Bulacan in the Philippines, came to Saipan 10 years ago to work as a waitress. She got a green card after marrying Jimmy Horath.

Reyes, Cruzeta, and Horath were among the 27 persons who took oath as the newest U.S. citizens during the naturalization ceremony held yesterday at the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy presided over the ceremony. The newest U.S. citizens are mostly from the Philippines and the rest are from China, Bangladesh, and the Dominican Republic.

Immigration Services officer Diane S. Zedde moved to accept the 27 candidates as new U.S. citizens.

Attorney General Edward Manibusan served as the guest speaker at the naturalization ceremony held in conjunction with the Law Day.

Aside from Reyes, Cruzeta, and Horath, the other newest citizens are Abner Paul Santos Acosta, Renee Marie Anne Acosta, Maria Rosario Q. Aldan, William Lara Armea, Maryanne Gamao Castro, Emy A. Cita, Flora Bulaon De Leon, Samuel Garcia Enriquez Jr., Amelia Ibanez Galarion, and Nestor Manio Jingco.

The other newest citizens are Jennifer Villanueva Kaipat, Ana Liza Salangsang Mafnas, Manuel Mariano Jr., David Leonardo Markos, Qi Yun Murner, Jane Escio Pagsolingan, Rachel Quiambao Reyes, Dionela Felipe Roppul, Marcelo Carillo Sagun, Restituta Raquepo Sanchez, Iqbal Hossain Syed, Noemi Martinez Urbien, Lizhen Wang, and Elena Manansala Yumul.

NEW BAR ASSOCIATION OFFICERS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The new officers of the CNMI Bar Association were sworn in by Chief Justice Alexandro Castro during a recent ceremony at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. From left, Chief Justice Castro, Lillian Ada Tenorio, president; Jennifer Dockter, vice president; Jeanne Rayphand, secretary; Charles "Ned" Brasington, treasurer; Maya Kara and Michael Ernest, board members. Not in photo is board member Sean Frink.

KHS Term 3 Honor Roll Listing

Kagman High School released the following Honor Roll listing for term 3:

GRADE 9
Principal's List

1. Micah Bandoja
2. De Faustina Camacho
3. Ella Mae Eusebio
4. Genzo Matua Gonzales
5. Cameron Hazlip
6. Rosalie Henderson
7. Justine Kirby
8. Camille Muna
9. Kyle San Nicolas
10. Britney Takai

Honor A List

1. Romel Ada
2. Manuel Borja
3. Marc Borja
4. Breanna Camacho
5. Chelsea Castro
6. Mariecris Estal
7. Jovanny Iderbei
8. Khalid Islam
9. Keoni Kaipat
10. Tindin Leon Guerrero
11. Kristian Mettao
12. Kristine Palmes
13. Laeldrie Sablan
14. Laurina Sebaklim
15. Alyssa Valdez

Honor B List

1. Kazuki Aguon
2. Aundrea Aldan
3. Mary Grace Anon
4. Jacklyn Arriola
5. Dan Bacalso
6. Takeji Blas
7. Pauline Bundoc
8. Franicia Borja
9. Jose Cabrera
10. Mary Jo Camacho
11. Zane Camacho
12. Mikeangela Charfauros
13. Bobbie Jean Danford II
14. Andy Estella
15. Rayanna Fitial
16. Freddie Guerrero
17. Kimo Lizama
18. Trinae Manglona
19. Darian Masayos
20. Faith Muna
21. Nekai Nicholas Jr
22. Jolyn Ocampo
23. Marlena Olopai
24. Jovina Pua
25. Tiara Rasa
26. Divina Rejano
27. Alanna Romolor
28. Marysue Romolor
29. Cheyenne Sablan
30. Taylor Sablan
31. Jonathan Santos
32. Peter Santos
33. Livinston Sigrah
34. Goddhy Taitingfong
35. Vincent Torres
36. Jessica Trecho
37. Joe Tudela Jr.
38. Rachel Tudela

GRADE 10
Principal's List

1. Gedin Cabrera
2. Mannelyn Cabrera
3. Alyssa Cepeda
4. Austin De Leon Guerrero
5. Marikishalin Iguel
6. Chelsea Isip
7. Junita Jetley
8. Julie Loong
9. Aldionne Maglanque
10. Aaron Ogumoro
11. Enrique Rabauliman
12. Francine Rago
13. Frances Santos
14. Dionessis Valdisimo
15. Edson Valdisimo

Honor A List

1. Christian Arceo
2. Alejandra Camacho
3. Keilani Dela Cruz
4. Kayleen Faisao
5. Ngirabeketei Kelulau
6. Patrick Santos Jr.
7. Bella Semens
8. Charmel Shrestha
9. Nathaley Smith

Honor B List

1. Jeremy Agulto
2. Dionisio Babauta
3. Bryan Camacho
4. Kyle Camacho
5. Ulen Camacho
6. Jeffrey Consignado
7. Joey Cruz Jr.
8. Maureen Cruz
9. Arita Dillay
10. Patrick Duenas
11. Kyle Fabia
12. Keith Fernandez
13. Michaelangelo Fitial
14. Boz Igitol
15. Immaculada Litulumar
16. Agnes Lizama
17. Trinie Lizama
18. Leikita Maliuyaf
19. Andrei Membrere
20. Delores Mendiola
21. Jose Naputi
22. Leila Nawaz
23. Connielene Ngotel
24. Greggy Pinaula
25. Kyle Quitano
26. Jelbert Quitugua
27. Shanalyn Taitano
28. Coreen Tenorio
29. Jenny Weita

GRADE 11
Principal's List

1. Noreen Angui
2. Kloe Borja
3. Kycel Butters
4. Andrea Camacho
5. Benellen Camacho
6. Brittney Hamilton
7. Jocielyn Lacay
8. Philippe Lacson
9. Alfredo Ngalongalo Jr.
10. Iramhel Talon

Honor A List

1. David Babauta
2. Audrey Camacho
3. Erika Coronado
4. Alexa San Nicolas

Honor B List

1. Wilson Ada
2. Augustin Aguon Jr.
3. Neling Arriola
4. Alyssa Babauta
5. Tiara Babauta
6. Abundio Besenio
7. Peter Camacho Jr.
8. Tia Camacho
9. Jenam Cangco
10. DeeanaCastro
11. Reina Cepeda
12. Grace Iriarte
13. Penina Magofna
14. Talianna Magofna
15. Nikela Masayos
16. Chelsey Mendiola
17. Annie Mortel
18. Raina Nauta
19. Donald Pangelinan Jr.
20. Michael Pangelinan
21. Devine Pua
22. Charles Punzalan
23. Jose Quitano
24. Shaina Rios
25. Lilly Sablan
26. Cory San Nicolas
27. Mildred Seman
28. Tara Tudela
29. Kay Dee Xavier

GRADE 12
Principal's List

1. Cassey Babauta
2. Lilly Jean Bautista
3. Fatimah Blake
4. Sage Borja
5. Jessa Camacho
6. Richelle Castro
7. Karen Laoyan
8. Alexander Litulumar
9. Mikeala San Nicolas
10. Hans Sante
11. Peter Anthony Santos
12. Viron Tenorio

Honor A List

1. Amanda Agulto
2. Allison Arellano
3. Elizabeth Basa
4. Jerry Borja
5. Florens Buekis
6. Josepha Cabera
7. Asako Camacho
8. Victor Castro
9. Ana Lieto
10. Tonnya Magofna
11. Edel Mendiola
12. Agnes Mongami
13. Wileen Mongami
14. Coreen Ramon
15. Sabrina Santos
16. Foysal Sojib

Honor B List

1. Kioney Aguon
2. Rayanna Aldan
3. Zasha Aldan
4. Evageline Babauta
5. Michelle Benito
6. Georalyn Blas
7. Kris Butters
8. Devannie Camacho
9. Willdon Camacho
10. Tommy Cangco
11. Georsana Castro
12. Christian Celis
13. Joaquin Chong
14. Ernie Dela Cruz Jr.
15. Hilaria Duenas
16. Nimei George
17. Raynalyn Kapileo
18. Sarah Kapileo
19. Angela Keremen
20. Dionicio Lizama
21. Kayleen Magofna
22. Andrew Palino
23. Jesus Pua
24. Estana Rios
25. Ricky Riungel
26. Nikita Robert
27. Polyn Salas
28. Francisco Salik
29. Guadalupe Santos
30. Sinadel Seman
31. Gavin Trinidad ***(PR)***

BSI donates wheelchairs to CHCC

Barely a week from the culmination of Best Sunshine International, Ltd.-initiated beautification efforts throughout the hospital, its Corporate Social Responsibility team once again allied with Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.—showing that both companies are aligned in mutual objectives and community goals to form a mutually beneficial partnership.

Best Sunshine CSO Tao Xing and CSR director Geri Dela Cruz and her team presented CHCC executives with eight wheelchairs to be used in the hospital's different units.

Dela Cruz said, "From observation and conversations with different CHCC employees, it was evident that there is a big need for wheelchairs for our hospital patients. We are fortunate that Best Sunshine is very supportive in considering requests for donations that serve the community as a whole. We have decided that it is perfect timing to turn over these wheelchairs as the CNMI celebrates May as Women's Health Month. Our partnership with CHCC is one that would definitely benefit the entire community and I look forward to future partnerships with this agency."

Esther Muna, CEO of CHCC, said, "We're very grateful to Best Sunshine, particularly to Tao Xing, and to the entire team of Best Sunshine's CSR led by Geri Dela Cruz, for the eight wheelchairs they donated to us. These will be used and distributed among departments; two wheelchairs in the pediatric ward, and two wheelchairs in each department at the FCC, those will be the women's clinic, children's clinic, and the adult clinic. These will definitely be useful. Certainly this will alleviate our staff just having the availability of these wheelchairs right at the clinic door instead of trying to look for wheelchairs. And that's what we've been doing in the past; we've been sharing wheelchairs and now we'll be able to make sure that each unit has its own. It's about patient care. On our part, we want to make sure that we can provide the service. People don't want to wait for a wheelchair. We want to be able to have it for them readily available. So I appreciate this a lot."

"This is a very awesome donation from Best Sunshine," remarked Jesse Tudela, CHCC hospital administrator. He adds, "I appreciate the company's generosity as we are in need of wheelchairs. Every year, we seem to end up losing wheelchairs, mainly because of the community need; we have patients who have those needs and can't ambulate, and secondly, the wear and tear of the wheelchairs, of course. I think Best Sunshine is doing a great job in the community and now extending these efforts to our hospital. We're looking forward to their forthcoming donations and efforts in improving the healthcare environment. Patient care now at CHC for any non-ambulating patient is taken care of with this donation."

Warren Villagomez, director of Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program, said "I would like to acknowledge and thank BSI for all their work and contribution from helping us bring up the aesthetic of the hospital; more so the significant delivery of these wheelchairs. This donation of medical equipment will accommodate the hospital ranging from the day-to-day operation, to any emergency response, and to evacuating the hospital if that need arose, making sure the safety of our people are up to the standard that we want to provide for them."

"These wheelchairs are really great, especially for the adult clinic," said Dr. Elizabeth Kohnen, medical director of the hospital's Family Care Clinic (FCC). She explains, "Our patients have to go a long way to the lab and X-ray department and it's a frequent problem especially for the *man'amko* patients. This will be a wonderful benefit for the people being seen and for their ease of care".

Muna adds, "This is the people's hospital. Best Sunshine making a donation like this is really for the people. Anything that benefits our people and our patients is always a great thing for the CNMI." ***(PR)***

'Just the Three of Us' starts May 6

TFC@theMovies scores several firsts as it brings together John Lloyd Cruz and Jennilyn Mercado for the first time in "Just The Three Of Us" about an unlikely love story, to cinemas worldwide on the same week of its Philippine release.

On Saipan, Regal Cinema will start showing "Just The Three Of Us" on Friday, May 6.

For the first time, Star Cinema brings three box office royalties in one movie—blockbuster director Cathy Garcia Molina, Cruz, and Mercado in a modern day romantic comedy.

Molina is the director behind the highly successful movie hits such as the iconic *One More Chance* and sequel *A Second Chance* that also starred Cruz and perennial love team Bea Alonzo.

"The premise itself got me excited doing the project. What if some girl really approaches you and tells you 'I'm pregnant. This is your child,'" said Molina.

Cruz, on the other hand, is the 2015 Guillermo Mendoza Memorial Foundation Phenomenal Star awardee because of the record-breaking results of *A Second Chance*. He has also shared remarkable performances in *Honor Thy Father* and recently at *Hele Sa Hiwagang Hapis*.

It is Mercado's first movie with Star Cinema, while this is the nth time Molina and Cruz are collaborating.

Cruz said that he's been waiting to work with Mercado, even though they are under contract with rival stations. Cruz is under ABS-CBN channel 2 while Mercado is with GMA 7.

"Now, anything is possible. You can now work with other stars even if you're from rival stations. This is good not only for the artists but for the industry," said Cruz.

Mercado is also hailed as box office royalty after winning back-to-back acting awards in the 2014 and 2015 Metro Manila Film Festival for *English Only Please* and *Walang Forever*. She was also hailed as part of the Breakthrough Office Indie Film in the 2015 Box Office Awards.

Mercado, before accepting the project, said she has been looking forward to work with Molina and Cruz that's why she quickly grabbed the opportunity once it was presented to her. "It's a nice working group with direk Cathy and John Lloyd. I'm a fan of the movies that they made."

Together, they tell the story of Uno (Cruz) and CJ (Mercado) who are complete strangers and opposites thrown into a situation that brings them together, albeit, forcibly to live a married life.

They are both equipped to handle their jobs as airline employees. Uno is an organized pilot who plans his life but comes home to an empty nest. CJ's dream, meanwhile, is to become a flight stewardess so while still a ground crew she puts her heart to it. What happens next is not entirely part of their plans and dreams.

Together, they face bigger challenges in their own journey to life and love. Will it make them realize that they are thrown together for a reason? Will their love go beyond a one-night stand?

Just The Three of Us will be shown May 4 in the Philippines; May 5 in the Gulf region; May 6 in Papua New Guinea, USA, Canada, and Saipan; May 7 and 8 in Europe; May 8 in Malaysia; May 12 Australia and New Zealand; and May 14 and 15 Singapore.

For more information, visit tfcatthemovies.com or TFC's Facebook pages worldwide. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The promotional poster of "Just The Three Of Us," which will be shown at Saipan Regal Cinema starting Thursday, May 6.

Casino shifting to Commonwealth's minimum control standards

The Commonwealth Casino Commission has approved the minimum internal control standards for Saipan's exclusive casino licensee, Best Sunshine International, Ltd., and expects a transition to these within the coming month.

The minimum internal control standards, or MICS, is the entire aspect of the burgeoning gaming industry's operations and provides the "what-to-dos" for security, surveillance, cashier, and slots operations, among many others, for example.

The casino regulators adopted their MICS last April 5.

"Now that we adopted the Commonwealth's MICS. We gave them 60 days to comply with ours," commission executive director Edward C. Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune* last week.

"They have 60 days to comply with your MICS," he said, "They are free do a lot more but they cannot go lower than our minimum standards."

Guerrero said the control standards detailed the "hour-to-hour" and "what to do" in situations for security, for example.

Prior to adoption and implementation of the MICS, the commission had adopted on an interim-basis the casino's standard operating procedures when regulators allowed them to open their "temporary" casino in the T-Galleria last July. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

Kagman High distributes report cards

Kagman High School 4th quarter progress reports were distributed to parents on Thursday, April 28, last week. Any reports not picked up on Thursday were sent home with students on Friday.

Please be sure to ask your child for their progress report. Status letters are also going out this week to inform on promotion and retention for next school year. Parents are highly encouraged to contact the school if you have further questions or concerns about your child's progress. Please call the main office for more information: 664-3780.

Kagman High is open for returning and new registration for SY16-17. All students who plan to attend Kagman High must register as soon as possible and no later than July 13 to ensure ideal placement. Registration is required for all new and returning students. This is required because information changes regularly and this allows the school to have the most updated information from our families annually. Please call the main office for more information 664-3780. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Skepticism over Trump 2.0

A few hours after he strengthened his claim to be the presumptive Republican nominee for president by winning five more primaries, Donald Trump delivered a speech on foreign policy in Washington Wednesday to a group of foreign-policy insiders—a speech aimed at beefing up the presidential credentials of a man with an exceedingly thin resume on global affairs.

His remarks, while easy to challenge on several points—such as his suggestion that President Obama "has not been a friend to Israel"—were decidedly calmer and more coherent than the trash talk he has directed in the past against immigrants, Muslims and America's allies and trading partners. Consider it a preview of Trump 2.0, the more substantive version of a candidate who'd previously been content to make simplistic but provocative policy declamations and lob rhetorical bombs at his rivals.

The performance, however, left us skeptical that the new Trump was really better than the old one.

The overarching theme of the speech was "America first," a reworking of a slogan used by opponents of America's involvement in World War II. For Trump it served as an umbrella for denunciations of "Islamic terrorism," Chinese economic aggressiveness, penny-pinching NATO countries and an Obama administration that he says has lost the world's respect.

These are familiar themes for Trump, but in this speech he jettisoned some of his more extreme rhetoric. For example, where once he suggested cavalierly that NATO was obsolete, on Wednesday he took a more nuanced view. He repeated that if other NATO members didn't pay their fair share, the U.S. would leave them to defend themselves. But he also suggested that he would work with NATO countries and America's Asian allies on "new strategies" for tackling challenges such as migration and Islamic terrorism.

Perhaps most remarkably, while Trump reiterated that America needs new immigration policies, there was no mention of the famous wall along the Mexican border.

Much of Trump's critique could have come from more traditional Republican candidates, including his denunciation of the agreement to restrain Iran's nuclear program and his suggestion that what he called the Obama-Clinton foreign policy has created "weakness, confusion and disarray" in the Middle East. He also is not unique in suggesting (absurdly) that the key to defeating Islamic State and similar groups is for Obama to say the magic words "radical Islam."

Even as he moderated his tone, Trump insisted that his would be an unconventional administration and that his foreign-policy advisors would come from outside the foreign policy establishment. Yet he suggested that they would be dedicated not to some reckless new agenda but to a foreign policy "that all Americans, whatever their party, can support," a lofty aspiration that is hard to reconcile with Trump's actual positions.

Trump's speech was an exercise in reassurance. But welcome as his more moderate tone may be, it can't erase the other objections to his candidacy: his lack of experience in government, his fondness for conspiracy theories and his indefensible comments about women and minorities. No matter how Trump recasts his policies in the weeks to come, his campaign has shown voters something important about his temperament and qualifications that they dare not forget.

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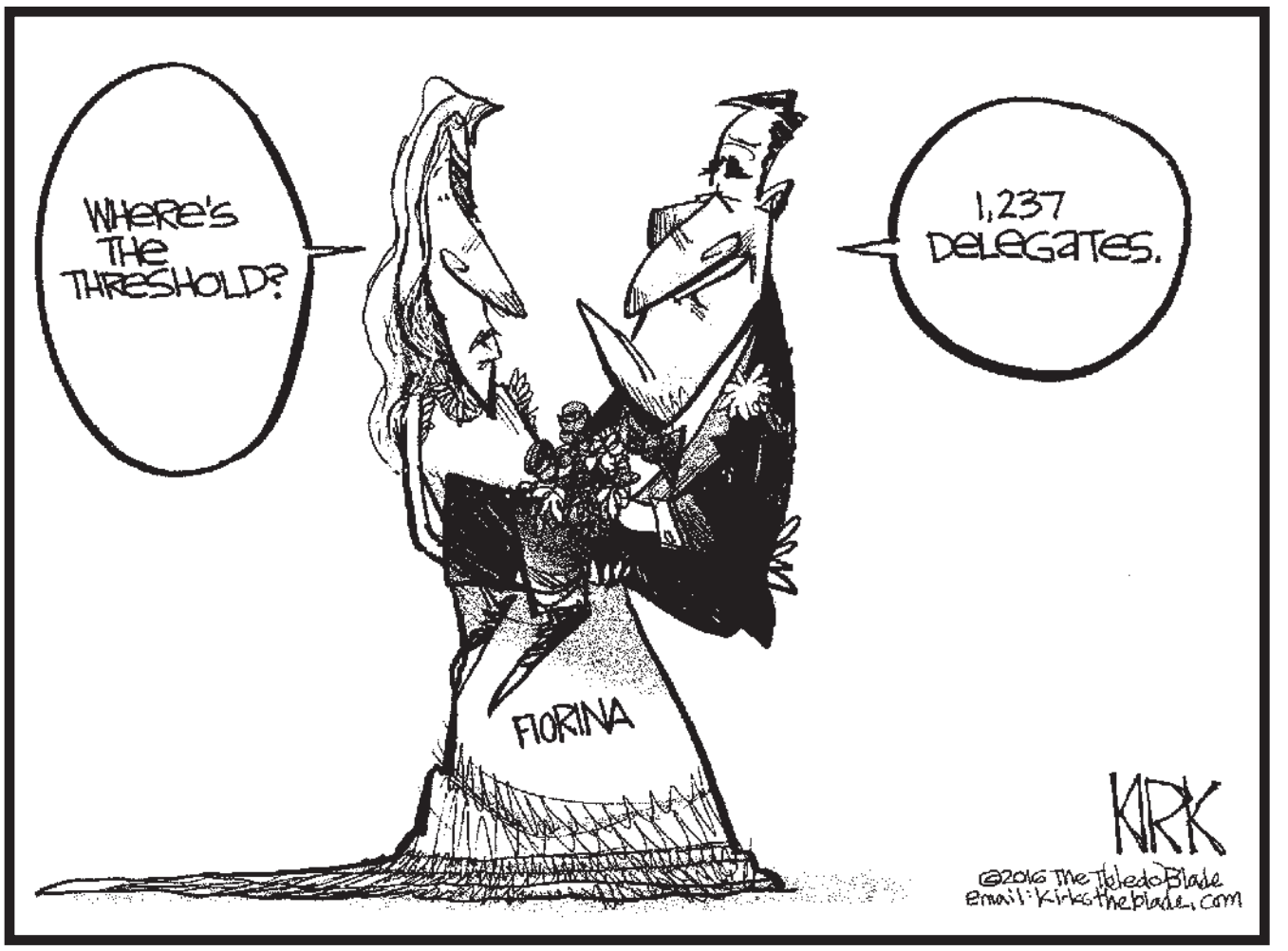


Fiorina pick makes Cruz look crazy, which heck, just might work

By CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS
Philadelphia Daily News

Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. *Readers may send her email at cflowers1961@gmail.com.*

I once started touring town with a crown on my head, going from diner to gas station to 4-H festival to church breakfast, announcing myself as Miss Pennsylvania, perfecting my half-smile and perky wave along the way. I did this because, even though I never participated in the Miss Pennsylvania pageant and, in fact, never had a date in high school, I badly needed some momentum in my love life. I figured that if I acted like I'd won a beauty contest, I'd eventually meet a nice doctor. Or something.

Of course, I didn't actually do this. Even if I had attempted to snatch a crown from the pedestal of history, I wouldn't win. One look at my hair and somewhat-lopsided eyes is a testament to the fact that I am the kind of woman grandmothers used to sit by their sides on Saturday nights to watch Lawrence Welk.

The point I am inartfully trying to make is that one does not put the cart before the horse, especially if one's horse is three steps away from the glue factory.

Which brings me to Ted Cruz. The GOP candidate who is, by all accounts, trailing Donald Trump in both delegates and the popular vote is not only not throwing in the towel, he is wrapping it around his head like a turban and pretending to be the Amazing Kreskin who will, poof!, extract a convention victory out of Carly Fiorina's mouth.

On Wednesday afternoon, Cruz announced that Fiorina was going to be competing in the Miss Pennsylvania pageant. No, scratch that. What he announced was that Fiorina would be his vice president pick in the general election, which he has apparently convinced himself he will be running in against either Hillary Clinton or the person who hires a member of the Salvadoran drug gang MS-18 to kidnap the former secretary of state and keep her incommunicado until November. Because essentially, that is the only way that Hillary "make sure you don't forget the Rodham" Clinton is going to be AWOL come autumn. She is inevitable.

Cruz, on the other hand, is far from inevitable. His numbers, while better than those of John Kasich, are nothing compared to the juggernaut, Trump. And while the political honchos are still weaving scenarios in which there could be a contested convention and Cruz could snatch the nomination from Trump, those of us who are not hitting our heads against the looking glass have sadly come to the realization that it will be a Trump-Clinton contest after the conventions. This is sort of like the Rumble in the Jungle between Muhammad Ali and George Foreman, only with more testosterone.

So when I watched the senator from Texas get up to the podium and, after a long preamble, announce his VP choice, I was perplexed. It was just like my fantasy of pretending to have won Miss Pennsylvania, only my fantasy played out in my head while Cruz was exposing his to an audience of hopeful-but-ultimately-puzzled supporters.

Don't get me wrong. I think Fiorina is magnificent. During the early debates, she wiped the floor with whoever else was on stage next to her, and she held her own with Trump when he went on one of his misogynistic rants about her face. I, for one, don't understand the insults because I think she is very attractive, but my judgment is suspect. I wore rayon well beyond the 1970s.

And yet, that is an irrelevancy, which everyone except Trump seems to understand. The way a woman looks should have no bearing on the way she is perceived by voters, and I say this as a person who is frequently told that she needs a drastic makeover (so you could only imagine what I'd get if I ran for public office). Many people have also attacked Fiorina's business record, continually pointing to the massive job losses suffered at Hewlett-Packard on her watch.

But the majority of those who have examined her history at both HP and in the business world in general have a strong and positive opinion of her abilities. Furthermore, her intelligence is awesome, and she easily dwarfs 90 percent of the people still running in the election (her new running mate being the possible exception) when it comes to brain power.

And yet, it is strange, and premature to be talking about what a great vice president Fiorina would be — and I think she'd be a great one — when the person at the top of her purported ticket has a slim-to-none chance of actually being the presidential nominee in July.

This does not mean that I don't want him to be the nominee. I'd

See FIORINA on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Diminishing faith in democracy

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. *Readers may write to her at:* Philadelphia Inquirer, *P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at trubin@phillynews.com.*

The greatest threat to American security is something most Americans never think of. President Barack Obama touched on it in his speech to the European people on Monday in Germany.

I'm not referring to the Islamic State, although Obama called the terrorist group "the most urgent threat to our nations" in his remarks. I'm talking about a more existential threat to Europe (and America): a diminishing faith in democracy as a political system. On the continent, this is manifested by the widening cracks in the European Union and the rise of radical right-wing parties.

"If a unified, peaceful, liberal, pluralistic, free-market Europe begins to doubt itself, begins to question the progress that's been made over the last several decades," Obama said, this will have a negative impact worldwide.

"We will be empowering those who argue that democracy can't work, that intolerance and tribalism and organizing ourselves along ethnic lines, and authoritarianism and restrictions on the press — that those are things that the challenges of today demand."

"What happens on this continent has consequences for people around the globe," the president continued.

Too true.

The president's tone was a stark reflection of how much the world has changed since candidate Obama gave his famous speech in front of tens of thousands of cheering Berliners in 2008. Back then, he proclaimed "this is our moment" to "remake the world again" in partnership with Russia, with a "new dawn" in the Mideast, in pursuit of an end to terrorism and a world without nuclear weapons.

That was then.

Yet irrespective of Obama's policies, the global shifts since 2008 were bound to stress Europe's democratic institutions—and undermine European unity. Globalization, the demise of manufacturing economies, and the 2008 crash (which Europeans blame on the George W. Bush administration) all contributed to a faltering European economy that has yet to recover. The EU's Brussels bureaucracy and institutions often seem incapable of coping with current realities.

The U.S. invasion of Iraq, combined with the failure of the Arab Spring and the incompetence of Mideast leaders, plus an enormous Arab youth bulge, created a flow of desperate young immigrants headed for Europe. This fueled the rise of the Islamic State.

As Obama noted, German Chancellor Angela Merkel appealed to Europe's best instincts and values when she welcomed the flood of refugees seeking asylum from the violence in Syria and Afghanistan. But her humanitarian instincts—born of a post-war German sensitivity to the issue of refugees—backfired. Her generosity crashed into a growing public fear of terrorists posing as asylum seekers.

The refugees also provided a convenient scapegoat for European angst. Right-wing populist parties in several countries—some funded by Russia—used the immigration issue as a club to oppose Merkel, the European Union, and NATO.

Their efforts were enhanced by a widening European memory gap. Three generations of Western Europeans have come of age since World War II, and only the aged can recall the earlier years of the 20th century, when European disunity produced wars and vicious totalitarian regimes. As for much of Eastern Europe, the two and a half decades since the fall of the Berlin Wall haven't fully erased the deep hold that authoritarian communist rule exercised over instincts and institutions.

So the value of European unity may seem far less apparent to many Europeans today than it did to previous generations.

Add all this up, and you have a deeply uncertain Europe, many of its citizens skeptical about unity, dissatisfied with democracy, and too often turning inward toward ethnic separation and intolerance of others.

In his speech, Obama tried to be upbeat. He reminded his audience that European unity is vital for economic growth, and for intelligence-sharing in the battle against the Islamic State. He stressed the need to share the defense burden — while, yet again, reminding reluctant NATO members that they should pay their fair share. "I am confident," he said, "that the forces that bind Europe together are ultimately much stronger than those trying to pull you apart."

But the president admitted he might be relying on "blind hope," and there was a plaintive note to his entreaties. Any U.S. plea for European unity and democracy is undercut by an American election campaign in which the presumptive GOP candidate, Donald Trump, promotes intolerance at home and calls Merkel "insane."

Trump suggests NATO is unnecessary and lauds Russia's Vladimir Putin. Recall that Putin is touting his version of authoritarian "democracy" as superior to the Western brand — with himself as the leader of the new movement.

His claim has been warmly received by some of Europe's populist parties.

Indeed, the results of the U.S. election may well play into the struggle for the future of Europe. In Germany, Obama was pleading for Europe to stay united and democratic, but his warning is equally applicable to the United States.

Latino vote likely to sink Trump this fall

By ANDRES OPPENHEIMER
Miami Herald

Andres Oppenheimer is a columnist for the Miami Herald. *Readers may email him at aoppenheimer@miamiherald.com*

Judging from the latest primary results and new polls that have just come out, I have a growing feeling that Latinos will save America from Donald Trump.

There is little question after the April 26 primary elections in Pennsylvania and four other states that Trump will be the Republican candidate for November's presidential elections. And if he is defeated by Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton, it will be largely thanks to the Latino vote.

Consider a new poll by Latino Decisions, a nationwide survey of 2,200 registered Latino voters: It shows that a whopping 87 percent of Hispanics have an unfavorable opinion of Trump. Just in case you are wondering, the poll has a margin of error of 2.1 percent.

Trump's standing among Latino voters has been falling steadily since the very day he announced his run for the presidency on June 16 and said that most Mexicans are "rapists" and that they "bring drugs and crime" to the United States.

His rhetoric against Mexicans — perhaps influenced by his failed business project in Baja California in 2008 — and other undocumented immigrants, most of whom are Hispanics, has escalated since.

Despite having been told a thousand times that his narrative about an avalanche of undocumented Mexicans coming to the United States is inaccurate — in fact, U.S. Census figures show the flow of Mexicans is significantly down from 2008 — Trump is repeating his fear-mongering tale in almost every speech.

He calls for the mass deportation of more than 11 million undocumented migrants, proposes to build a wall on the border with Mexico, and wants to slap a 35 percent import tax on Mexican products. So far, his audiences love it.

Bur, remember, he has been talking to a limited audience of right-wing Republican primary voters. In a general election, he may come to regret his Mexico-bashing and anti-immigrant tirades.

The Latino vote will be critical in the November election. The percentage of Latino voters nationwide is projected to skyrocket from 3.9 percent in 1992 to nearly 10 percent in 2016, according to a recent study by City University of New York and CNN en Español.

More importantly, Latinos are concentrated in 10 states that have the largest number of votes in the electoral college. They will exceed 10 percent of voters in Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, New Jersey, New Mexico, Nevada, New York and Texas.

And Clinton is doing much better than Trump among Hispanics: 61 percent of those polled nationwide say they have a favorable opinion of Clinton, while only 9 percent have a favorable opinion of Trump, the Latino Decision survey shows.

So how can Trump win without the Latino vote? Trump supporters say that he will make up for his shortage of Latino voters by drawing millions of angry white Republicans and so-called Reagan Democrats who have not voted in recent elections to the polls in November. These voters are energized by Trump's "America First" nationalist-populist campaign claiming that Mexicans, Muslims and European and Asian governments that are getting U.S. military aid are to blame for America's problems.

"The Republican Party is up about 70 percent from four years ago," Trump boasted in his April 26 victory speech after winning the primaries in Pennsylvania and four other states, referring to the turnout in this year's primary races. These new voters will propel Trump to victory, regardless of the Latino vote, the Trump camp says.

My opinion: Even if Trump changes his image and moderates his rhetoric to look more "presidential" in coming months, his math won't work. His constituency of largely angry white males won't be enough to compensate for his scant support among women and black voters, and for his disastrous one-digit support among Latinos.

Trump's argument that he is drawing record numbers of Republicans to the polls is true, but he fails to point out that the Democrats' turnout has also gone up. According to the Pew Research Center, overall Republican turnout this year's primaries is 7.5 percent higher than in 2012, while Democrats' turnout is up by 5.4 percentage points.

Most importantly, Trump's xenophobia — if not racism — is likely to mobilize Latino voters like never before, because they will feel threatened by him. Hispanics will vote in record numbers in November. And, rather than being a threat to America, they will save America from Trump.

FIORINA

From Page 10

take anyone over Trump at this point, including the barista at my local Starbucks who finally figured out that my name is spelled with "Ch" and not a "K." The kid clearly has a steep learning curve, but he's learning. I can't say the same for Trump.

With Cruz, I know I'll be getting smart, and with Fiorina, I know I'll be getting tough. The two of them together would make a formidable team. But the premature announcement looks like a Hail Mary pass made by a kid in the Pop Warner league to his mother. It looks juvenile, amateur and desperate.

Or, it could just be that magical thinking I was talking about, where you steal a crown and start parading yourself around as a winner despite all the evidence to the contrary. And that just makes you look crazy.

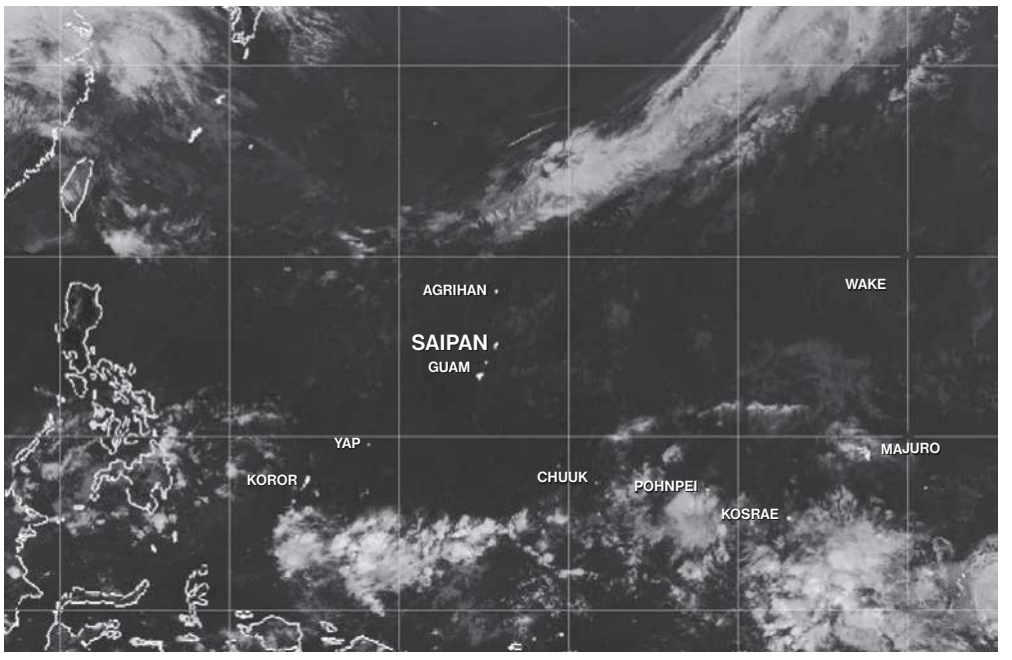
Which doesn't usually win elections. At least, not up till now.

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East wind 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 PM, MONDAY, MAY 2, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A stationary front extends southwestward from 25N156E to 21N144E to 20N130E. Cloudiness, scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present along and up to 175 miles north and northwest of this front. A weak trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Palau and Yap in the area bounded by 6N134E to 6N150E to EQ144E to EQ135E back to 6N134E. A near-equatorial trough runs from 2N148E to 5N157E to EQ166E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the trough in the area bounded by 6N156E to 4N170E to EQ171E to EQ161E back to 6N156E south of Pohnpei and just south of Kosrae. In addition, scattered showers are seen between Chuuk and Pohnpei between 3N and 8N from 153E to 156E. Low-level convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of the Marshall Islands between the equator and 3N from 171E to the date line.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Showers	▲87	▼78
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲90	▼79
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼79
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲84	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼59
Beijing	Windy	▲80	▼48
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲81	▼75
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼72
London	Mostly Sunny	▲61	▼40
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲77	▼55
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲98	▼78
Melbourne	Showers	▲66	▼47
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼76
New York	Showers	▲64	▼54
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲78	▼59
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲61	▼41
Pusan	Rain	▲68	▼54
Rome	Sunny	▲77	▼54
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼52
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼51
Seoul	Rain	▲65	▼52
Tokyo	Windy	▲73	▼66
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲82	▼61

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:40 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
12:05 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
5:44 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:59 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:53 AM	6:35 PM
Wednesday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Thursday	5:52 AM	6:36 PM
Friday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Saturday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:45 AM	3:00 PM
Wednesday	3:33 AM	4:00 PM
Thursday	4:22 AM	5:01 PM
Friday	5:13 AM	6:03 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	7:06 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 2, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

OZ1077	4:40am	7:10am	Daily
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ1157	4:00am	6:40am	1, 4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	Daily via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	10:35pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/193	1:30pm	10:35pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA2921/191	1:30pm	8:55am+1	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	10:35pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2920/191	2:20pm	8:55am+1	2, 6 via GUM
UA2928/191	6:05pm	8:55am+1	1, 2, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2926/191	9:50pm	8:55am+1	1, 2, 5, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	9:55pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
OZ1078	9:25pm	1:45am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ1167	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2927	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/2925	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA192/2920	9:45pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM-Rota
UA192/2927	9:45pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA192/2929	9:45pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/2925	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:30pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:30pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:30pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA116/2925	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	9:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	9:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	9:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	9:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure;ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

DOI gives nearly $2.4M for FSM, regional efforts in Pacific

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Esther Kia'aina approved $2.4 million in grant funding for climate adaptation and resiliency initiatives, including food and water security, and Micronesian One Stop Resource Centers.

"Climate change adaptation and resiliency needs, migration under the Compacts of Free Association, and disaster planning preparedness continue to be pressing priorities for the region," said Kia'aina. "We are pleased to provide assistance to and partner with those communities most impacted and the organizations that can help us address these important issues."

Technical Assistance Program (TAP) grants awarded this week are as follow:

■ $390,000 to the Enewetak/Ujelang Local governments (Marshall Islands) to install a solar-powered reverse osmosis system to support and enhance the current water delivery system on Enewetak Island that provides fresh water to local households. Only renewable energy sources will be used to power the processing of safe drinking water on island through reverse osmosis. Longer dry seasons and greater prevalence of drought due to effects of climate change have led to a significant decline in water quality on Enewetak. Lower precipitation has also affected the quality of the water lens rendering it unsuitable for household or agricultural uses.

■ $347,600 to the Kili Bikini Ejit Local Government (Marshall Islands) to purchase equipment to build and reinforce seawalls and help prevent encroaching seawater that continues to flood the island, especially during King Tides, for the past several years and has rendered some parts of the island unusable. Funds will also be used for other immediate infrastructure and maintenance projects, as well as long-term strategic planning on resettlement.

■ $20,000 to the Women in Farming Kosrae Initiative (Federated States of Micronesia) to improve their capacity for promoting the planting of fresh vegetables for local consumption to combat sedentary lifestyles and the rise of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes. Project activities include: building additional greenhouses to grow and distribute seedlings for cultivation of fresh produce, raising awareness on the importance of balanced diets and leading more active lifestyles, and sharing healthy recipes and food preservation techniques with families in the community.

■ $686,062 to the Republic of Palau for the installation of a multi-agency emergency radio communications system and to establish a server for information sharing among agencies in the Palau National Government. Local agencies responsible for public safety, maritime security and fish & wildlife protection, immigration and labor, and the Attorney General's office would be able to develop an incident-based reporting system through integration of data and improved communication efforts for disasters and other emergency situations on the island.

■ $210,000 to Big Brother Big Sisters of Guam for the continuation of activities of the One Stop Shop Micronesian Resource Center. The One Stop Center provides information and orientation services to new arrivals from the freely associated states to promote cultural integration, inclusion and self-sufficiency through workforce development, and family support initiatives that address cultural and social challenges. The organization will continue to utilize the mobile access van, as well as cultural mediators to serve as caseworkers.

■ $250,000 to the Partners in Development Foundation (Hawaii) for the continuation of the Halau Ola – We are Oceania (WAO) One Stop Shop Micronesian Resource Center on Oahu for a second year. WAO has become a Marketplace Assistant Organization to help enroll individuals for healthcare.gov and has entered into an agreement with Hawaii's Institute of Human Services, an emergency and transition home shelter whose goal is to help Micronesians transition successfully and become contributing members of their new communities. Regular activities include continued capacity building through mentoring of the WAO core group, developing and disseminating acculturation materials, cultivating and strengthening partnerships with local service providers on Hawaii as well as the Micronesian governments and organizations in the freely associated states, including outreach to Micronesian communities on the neighbor islands.

■ $375,000 to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for systems assessment to strengthen the management, accountability, and implementation of Federal health resources in the U.S. Territories of Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as the Freely Associated States of the Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Federated States of Micronesia.

■ $50,000 to the Centers for Disease, Control and Prevention for the prevention and control of viral hepatitis infections in the Pacific Region.

■ $121,371 to the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture to identify and improve the capacity of local agroecosystems to sustain food security and cultural ecosystem services under a changing climate. Partners will include: American Samoa Community College, College of the Northern Mariana Islands, College of the Marshall Islands, College of Micronesia, Palau Community College and the University of Guam.

Maintenance Assistance Program (MAP) grants awarded this week are as follow:

■ $99,700 to the Yap Sports Council (Federated States of Micronesia) for the purchase of specialized equipment and materials, temporary management and technical expertise, maintenance-related training, and maintenance-related analysis and studies. The project aims to extend the life of the Yap Sport Complex facilities, ensure the safety of island residents and maintenance staff involved with maintaining and utilizing sporting facilities, increase the facility and professional capacity of Yap to enable regular hosting of regional and international competition and sports training camps and to ensure facility maintenance sustainability and annual operating funding.

■ $225,000 to the Yap State Public Service Corporation (Federated States of Micronesia) to provide advanced professional and certification training to the power linemen of five U.S. insular areas. Classes will focus on disaster response training due to increasing typhoon and tropical storm activity, basic lineman certification classes, and disaster response planning workshop for utility managers. The number of storms has increased in the region with 28 "named" tropical storms and typhoons in 2015 alone. The expertise and resources of those trained under the Pacific Linemen Program has been used in recent natural disasters such as Typhoon Soudelor that hit the Northern Mariana Islands in 2015.

The Secretary of the Interior is responsible for coordinating federal policy with respect to the territories of the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and administering and overseeing U.S. federal assistance provided to the freely associated states of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau under the Compacts of Free Association. On behalf of the Secretary, the Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas executes these responsibilities through the Office of Insular Affairs whose mission is to foster economic opportunities, promote government efficiency, and improve the quality of life for the people of the insular areas. ***(PR)***

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guided by Joy Jones, women of Church 360 celebrate women's health month. Spiritual health is just as important as physical, emotional, mental, and financial health. These empowered women gathered last Sunday, May 1, for fellowship and lunch at Church 360 in the ground floor of Marianas Business Plaza. Church 360 Ladies brunch will be on May 7 at 10am.

EU supports disaster relief in Marshall Islands

MAJURO, Republic of the Marshall Islands—An emergency response vehicle and 208 water tanks have been provided to the Republic of the Marshall Islands this week as part of ongoing support to boost emergency response efforts in the small Pacific Island nation.

The timely gesture has been made possible through the European Union's €19.37million Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific Project (BSRP), implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC).

The European Union Ambassador for the Pacific, H.E. Andrew Jacobs presented the emergency response vehicle to the National Disaster Management Office in the capital, Majuro, today and will travel to the outer atolls of Marshall Islands including Aur, Tobal and Maloelap to see firsthand the important work of drought response and solar projects that are occurring in these communities.

Maloelap is one of the 14 atoll islands that were electrified with 100 solar home systems under the EU-SPC partnership through the North Pacific ACP Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Project (North-REP).

Jacobs said, "Ensuring communities are resilient to disaster both now as they face drought conditions but into the future is critical for the Pacific region. This is why the EU is committed to supporting projects that deliver real results to communities."

The 208 water tanks are being installed on the outer atolls including Aur, Tobal to help alleviate the devastating drought experienced in 2013 as well as the one currently being felt in the country and to provide long-term sustainable access to water for the islands.

Last Feb. 3, Republic of Marshall Islands the President H.E. Hilda Heine declared a State of Emergency and later a State of Disaster as a result the severe and prolonged drought.

At the request of the Marshallese government, SPC mobilized its technical and scientific expertise in agriculture, water and health to the Pacific Island nation in late March, to carry out assessments to determine areas of further support to complement assistance that had commenced earlier in the year.

Pacific Community director general Dr. Colin Tukuitonga said the delivery of this vehicle and water tanks is critical for the Pacific island nation as they suffer from one of their worst droughts in history.

"Communities must be supported before, during and after disaster. This is critical, especially ensuring we also support outer islands in countries like RMI where drought is really having a serious impact right now," Tukuitonga said.

"We know that natural and environmental hazards are big concerns for the Pacific region so this work will provide long-term sustainable support to community level to ensure the people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands are best prepared for disasters in the future," he said. ***(PR)***

Business

Puerto Rico won't make $370M in debt payments Monday

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla announced that Puerto Rico's government will not make nearly $370 million in bond payments due Monday after a failure to restructure or find a political solution to the U.S. territory's spiraling public debt crisis.

Garcia said Sunday that he had issued an executive order suspending payments on debt owed by the island's Government Development Bank, a default that will likely prompt lawsuits from creditors and could be a prelude to a deadline to a much larger payment due July 1.

The governor said Puerto Rico can't pay the bonds without cutting essential services.

Island officials spent the weekend trying to negotiate a settlement that would have avoided the default but apparently came up short. The development comes as Congress has so far been unable to pass a debt restructuring bill for Puerto Rico.

AP

In this Wednesday, July 29, file 2015 photo, the Puerto Rican flag flies in front of Puerto Rico's Capitol as in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

"Let me be very clear, this was a painful decision," Garcia said in a speech. "We would have preferred to have had a legal framework to restructure our debts in an orderly manner."

The Government Development Bank had $422 million in payments due Monday. Puerto Rico will pay $22 million interest and it reached a deal Friday to restructure about $30 million, leaving it short $370 million.

The administration also will be paying about $50 million in other debt payments due Monday owed by various other territorial agencies.

Garcia said Puerto Rico's government could not make the payment without sacrificing basic necessities for the island's 3.5 million residents, including keeping schools and public hospitals open.

"We will continue working to try to reach a consensual solution with our creditors," he said. "That is one of our commitments. But what we will never do is put the lives and safety of our people in danger."

The governor had been warning since last year that the island's overall public debt of more than $70 billion is unpayable.

Puerto Rico has been suffering through more than a decade of economic decline since Congress phased out tax cuts that had made the island a center for pharmaceutical and medical equipment manufacturing. Garcia's predecessors and the island legislature borrowed heavily to cover over budget deficits, causing a debt spiral that has already prompted several smaller defaults.

Creditors have accused the government of exaggerating the crisis to avoid upcoming payments of more than $1 billion due July 1 that includes general obligation bonds, which are guaranteed by the constitution.

Economists have warned that a default of this magnitude could cause Puerto Rico to lose access to capital markets and make the situation worse as the government faces the much larger payment due July 1.

Garcia lashed out at Congress for failing to pass a bill that would create a control board to help manage the island's $70 billion debt and to oversee some debt restructuring. He said it has been held up by internal partisan and ideological divisions" in the House of Representatives.

"We can't wait longer," he said. "We need this restructuring mechanism now."

James Bond meets Samuel Colt: Seeking to build a safer gun

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Jonathan Mossberg is among a small number of pioneers looking to build a safer gun. But unlike many others, he was in the gun business when he started down that path.

His family is renowned for its premier line of shotguns treasured by law enforcement, hunters and the military. Mossberg already has spent more than a decade working to develop—and someday bring to the market—a firearm that the wrong person cannot fire. It is intended to work without fail in the hands of its owner in a life-or-death situation.

"We're gun people, so we know when you pick up a gun you want to shoot it," Mossberg said. "You don't want to swipe your finger. You don't want to talk to it. In an emergency situation, you want to pick it up and use it."

Mossberg's iGun Technology Corp., based in Daytona Beach, Florida, relies on a simple piece of jewelry—a ring—that "talks" to a circuit board imbedded in a firearm to let it know the user is authorized. The ring must be within centimeters of the gun for the gun to fire.

The road to a safer gun has been long. Initial efforts encountered a public wary of the technology, but that has eased as iPhones, tablets and other smart devices have become common.

Mossberg isn't the only one attempting to bring a bit of James Bond to firearms.

Others are exploring biometrics, like an iPhone lock that opens with your fingerprint. Some rely on radio-frequency identification, or RFID, technology, proximity sensors similar to the system Mossberg's company uses. Some use watches to send a signal to the firearm.

They've had varying degrees of success, but none has been broadly marketed so far.

On Friday, Obama announced new steps to curb gun violence, including by identifying the requirements "smart guns" would have to meet for law enforcement agencies to buy and use them.

"As long as we've got the technology to prevent a criminal from stealing and using your smartphone, then we should be able to prevent the wrong person from pulling a trigger on a gun," Obama said on Friday.

The departments of Justice and Homeland Security said in a report Friday that they expect to complete the work of identifying the smart-gun requirements by October.

"The technologies are a reality now," said Stephen Teret, a professor of health policy and management at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health who studies gun violence and gun policies. "There are obstacles still in getting those technologies into guns and getting guns into the civilian marketplace."

Among them is cost. Modernizing gun manufacturing would mean higher prices for smart weapons.

Then there's politics. The industry is concerned that success with the technology would encourage the government to mandate it.

Companies crucial to energy exploration abandon $34B merger

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Justice Department says two companies crucial to the business of U.S. energy exploration have abandoned their planned $34 billion merger.

The department filed suit April 6 to block the merger of Halliburton and Baker Hughes. The agency claims the transaction would unlawfully eliminate significant competition in almost two dozen markets crucial to the exploration and production of oil and natural gas in the United States.

Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch called the companies' decision to abandon the transaction "a victory for the U.S. economy and for all Americans."

Justice officials said the merger of Halliburton and Baker Hughes would have raised prices, decreased output and lessened innovation in at least 23 oilfield products and services critical to the nation's energy supply.

Colleagues don't have to like each other, but they have to get along

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. *Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @ officecoach.*

Q: Two of my employees simply don't like each other. Neither one can give me a specific reason, so I assume it must be a personality difference. Unfortunately, their jobs require them to work together on a regular basis.

"Sara" has made an effort to remain professional and communicate in a businesslike manner. However, "Kristen" can't seem to put her negative feelings aside. Her obvious irritability creates tension in the office and makes everyone uncomfortable. What should I do about this?

A: These touchy employees need to learn that their personal reactions are completely irrelevant. At work, people must get along whether they like each other or not. So your first step is to meet with them together, explain this reality and establish expectations.

For example: "Both of you have indicated that you aren't particularly compatible, so I want you to understand that you don't have to like each other. People seldom like all their co-workers because they don't get to select them. However, I do expect you to be consistently pleasant, helpful and cooperative at work. As long as you act appropriately, how you feel really doesn't matter. Do you have any questions about this?"

After delivering this collective warning, meet with Sara and Kristen separately to discuss their individual situations. With Sara, you can express appreciation for her professional attitude and let her know she's on the right track. But with Kristen, you must firmly set the stage for change.

Start by describing her troublesome behavior and indicate that this must stop immediately. Explain the consequences which will follow if it continues, which could include anything from moving her desk to formal disciplinary action. Finally, schedule regular feedback sessions to review her progress and provide ongoing coaching.

If Kristen shapes up, thank her for making the effort to improve. But if she's unable or unwilling to do so, it might just be time to say goodbye.

Q: For the past seven years, the managers who report to me have completely ignored my birthday, despite the fact that I always remember theirs. I usually buy a small gift or take the person to lunch. While I certainly don't expect them to spend money on me, a simple "happy birthday" doesn't seem like a lot to ask. Although I'm trying not to take this personally, it still hurts to have my birthday overlooked. What do you think I should do?

A: To put it bluntly, I think you should get over this and let it go. I do understand your feelings, and it would certainly be nice for the staff to acknowledge your special day. However, the reality is that employees often fail to consider how their bosses feel, just as kids do with their parents. In fact, they may not even know when your birthday is.

Since this lack of reciprocity seems to be causing resentment, perhaps you should consider ending the birthday gifts and lunches. But if you choose to continue, do so only because you want to make people happy, without expecting anything in return.

Nation

Campaign rumbles into Indiana with underdogs struggling

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (AP)—The 2016 presidential campaign rumbled through Indiana Sunday focused on Tuesday's critical primary, even as front-runners Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump itched to fully engage in the one-on-one battle they cast as inevitable.

But the underdogs in both parties made clear they had no plans to exit the race, at least until the Indiana results come in—and perhaps longer.

"We're going the distance," Trump rival Ted Cruz said on ABC's "This Week," arguing that Trump won't be able to get the majority of delegates required to clinch the nomination. "We're going into Cleveland, and it will be a contested convention."

On the Democratic side, Bernie Sanders insisted that his path to the nomination depends on the unlikely prospect of flipping superdelegates who are now committed to Clinton. Superdelegates can vote for the candidate they prefer. The former secretary of state is still 91 percent of the way to the nomination, according to The Associated Press. She is 218 delegates away from winning the 2,383 need to clinch the nomination.

"We have an uphill climb, no question about it," he said, before hopping a plane to Indiana to continue his campaign.

And so the stalemate between the front-runners and their struggling rivals continued.

The frustration was dramatic on the Republican side. Campaigning in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Trump again reiterated that he believes the GOP race is over even though he does not yet have the 1,237 delegates needed to clinch the nomination, and he mocked Cruz and Ohio Gov. John Kasich for staying in the race.

"They're hanging by their fingernails," said Trump, who urged the party to come together behind his candidacy. But even if it doesn't, he said, he expects to be the Republican nominee.

"I'd like to see the party pull together," Trump said. "Now if it doesn't pull together, I think I'm still going to win."

At an earlier rally in Terre Haute, Indiana, Trump groused that his rivals were forcing him into "wasting time" that he could otherwise spend raising "money for the Senate races."

That overt offer of fundraising is new for Trump, incentive for Republican leaders to help push Cruz and Kasich out of the race. Senior adviser Paul Manafort further telegraphed the message Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation," saying that Trump is looking to strengthen ties to "leaders of the Republican Party and various committees to help raise money for them."

Clinton, in Indianapolis, did not bother mentioning Sanders' name. Instead, she criticized Trump for embracing GOP economic policies that have left everyday workers behind. And she took aim at both Trump and Cruz for wanting to "slash taxes on the wealthy" and for using "dangerous" rhetoric about Muslims.

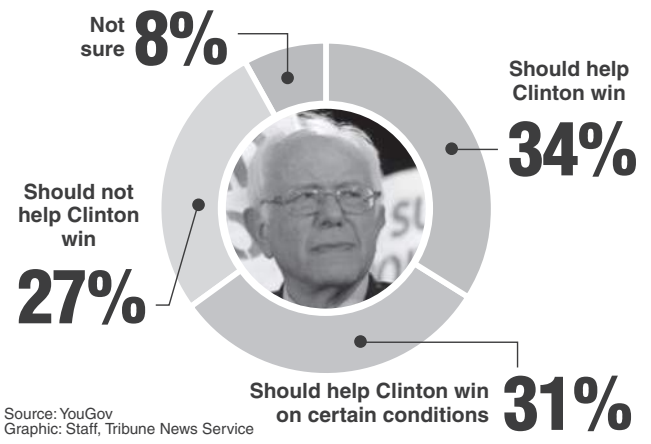
At an NAACP dinner in Detroit Sunday night, Clinton reminded the thousands of predominantly African Americans who attended that as part of the "insidious" birther movement, Trump questioned President Barack Obama's citizenship. Trump played coy, Clinton pointed out, when asked to disavow David Duke and other white supremacists supporting his campaign.

"We deserve leaders who will tear down barriers, not build walls between us," Clinton added. "And we need to be sure that as we go forward in this campaign, we look out mostly for those left out and left behind."

Cruz wasn't surrendering to the delegate math, even after a tough week in which former House Speaker John Boehner called him "Lucifer in the flesh" and "a miserable son of a bitch." Cruz pointed out on several political talk shows that Indiana Gov. Mike Pence and former California Gov. Pete Wilson have endorsed him and that Trump can't get a majority of Republicans to back him.

What should Bernie do if he loses?

If Bernie Sanders loses the Democratic nomination for president to Hillary Clinton, do you think he should help her win the general election in November? % of Democratic primary voters who support Bernie Sanders



Source: YouGov
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

Tiny Nebraska town says no to 1,100 jobs, citing way of life

NICKERSON, Neb. (AP)—Half-ton pickup trucks crowd the curb outside the One Horse Saloon, a neon Coors Light sign in the window and rib-eye steaks on the menu, but otherwise Nickerson, Nebraska, is nearly silent on a spring evening, with only rumbling freight trains interrupting bird songs.

Regional economic development officials thought it was the perfect spot for a chicken processing plant that would liven up the 400-person town with 1,100 jobs, more than it had ever seen. When plans leaked out, though, there was no celebration, only furious opposition that culminated in residents packing the fire hall to complain the roads couldn't handle the truck traffic, the stench from the plant would be unbearable and immigrants and out-of-towners would flood the area, overwhelming schools and changing the town's character.

"Everyone was against it," said Jackie Ladd, who has lived there for more than 30 years. "How many jobs would it mean for people here? Not many."

The village board unanimously voted against the proposed $300 million plant, and two weeks later, the company said they'd take their plant—and money—elsewhere.

Deep-rooted, rural agricultural communities around the U.S. are seeking economic investments to keep from shedding residents, but those very places face trade-offs that increasing numbers of those who oppose meat processing plants say threaten to burden their way of life and bring in outsiders.

"Maybe it's just an issue of the times in which we live in which so many people want certain things but they don't want the inconveniences that go with them," said Chris Young, executive director of the American Association of Meat Processors.

Nickerson fought against Georgia-based Lincoln Premium Poultry, which wanted to process 1.6 million chickens a week for warehouse chain Costco. It was a similar story in Turlock, California, which turned down a hog-processing plant last fall, and Port Arthur, Texas, where residents last week stopped a meat processing plant. There also were complaints this month about a huge hog processing plant planned in Mason City, Iowa, but the project has moved ahead.

Train derails in Washington, DC; leaks hazardous chemical

WASHINGTON (AP)—Officials warned Washington D.C. area residents to brace for a potentially slow commute Monday after a CSX freight train derailed near a Metro stop, sending 15 cars off the tracks and spilling hazardous material.

The train derailed about 6:40 a.m. Sunday near the Rhode Island Avenue Metro station and one of the cars leaked sodium hydroxide, which is used to produce various household products including paper, soap and detergents, CSX said.

No injuries were reported and no evacuations were ordered.

Mayor Muriel Bowser said no trains will be running on the tracks Monday and CSX couldn't say how long the cleanup might take.

"We understand that this a significant inconvenience to commuters and to this community so we're working as quickly as we possibly can with safety as the first priority," CSX spokeswoman Melanie Cost said.

Sodium hydroxide, also known as corrosive lye, is a chemical that can irritate and burn the skin and eyes. D.C. Fire and EMS Deputy Chief John Donnelly said officials believe about half of the 15,500 gallon tanker leaked into the rail bed and ground before it was plugged, but no problems have been reported.

"At this point all of the air monitoring has been good," Donnelly said.

The Federal Railroad Administration issued a statement later Sunday that 15 cars had derailed, nine of them empty and one a general freight car carrying scrap steel. Spokesman Matthew Lehner said five were tank cars, including the one loaded with sodium hydroxide.

Officials found that another derailed car had been leaking non-hazardous calcium chloride, CSX said. That leak has also been plugged, the company said.

A third car was slowly leaking ethanol from the base of a valve, CSX said. Officials worked to re-seal the valve, and the spilled the ethanol has been contained.

It was not immediately clear what caused the derailment of the train, which was heading to Hamlet, North Carolina, from Cumberland, Maryland.

1st cruise from a US port in decades leaves Miami for Cuba

MIAMI (AP)—Passengers set sail Sunday from Miami on an historic cruise to Cuba, the first in decades to depart from a U.S. seaport for the communist island nation.

Carnival Corp.'s 704-passenger Adonia left port at 4:24 p.m., bound for Havana. Carnival's Cuba cruises, operating under its Fathom brand, will also visit the ports of Cienfuegos and Santiago de Cuba on the seven-day outing. Several Cuba-born passengers, among hundreds of others, were aboard, it said.

The cruise comes after Cuba loosened its policy banning Cuban-born people from arriving to the country by sea, a rule that threatened to stop the cruises from happening.

Restarting the cruises was an important element of a bid by President Barack Obama's administration's to increase tourism to Cuba after the Dec. 17, 2014, decision to restore diplomatic relations and move toward normalization.

The most recent such cruise, from another U.S. port, was in 1978.

When it first announced the cruises, Carnival said it would bar Cuban-born passengers due to the government's policy. But the Cuban-American community in Miami complained and filed a discrimination lawsuit in response. After that, the company said it would only sail to Cuba if the policy changed, which Cuba did on April 22.

Carnival said the Adonia will cruise every other week from Miami to Cuba. Bookings will start at $1,800 per person and feature an array of cultural and educational activities, including Spanish lessons, Carnival's website says.

Seventy-three-year-old passenger Rick Schneider told The Sun-Sentinel (http://bit.ly/1SH4Zi1) that he had waited decades for the chance to make the journey. He bought a Cuban flag for the occasion, which he waved from the deck at protesters who opposed the cruises.

He said he once passed up taking a ferry trip to Cuba in 1957, adding "the time is now."

The cruise is among the many changes in U.S.-Cuban relations since a thaw between the former Cold War foes began in late 2014. The thaw also led to a historic, two-day trip to Cuba in March by Obama, who met with Cuban counterpart Raul Castro and others.

The Cuban government says the shift in policy removes prohibitions enacted when Cuban exiles were launching attacks by sea after the first Cuban revolution.

On Sunday, Arnold Donald, Carnival's president and CEO, said the company worked and prepared to make the cruises a reality despite the challenges.

"Times of change often bring out emotions and clearly the histories here are very emotional for a number of people," Donald told reporters."

The Miami Herald (http://hrld.us/21ohkxc) reported that a boat carrying some activists protesting the trip to Cuba was nearby in Florida waters before the ship's departure Sunday. The report said the boat pulled away before the Adonia set sail with an expected Monday arrival in Havana.

Mary Olive Reinhart, a retired parks service ranger, told the paper that she and some friends from the Philadelphia area were drawn to the voyage by the adventure of it all.

Asia

N. Korea party congress to show unity around Kim Jong Un

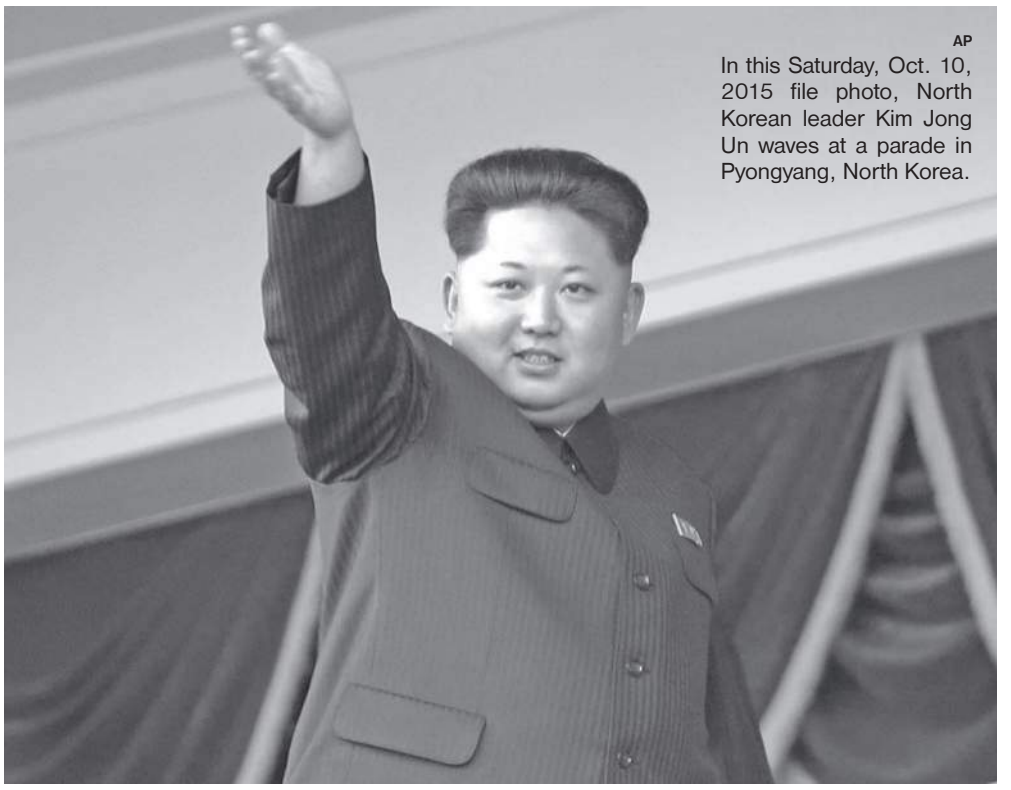
TOKYO (AP)—North Korea is preparing to hold a once-in-a-generation congress of its ruling party that is intended to rally the nation behind leader Kim Jong Un and could provide an important glimpse into Kim's plans for the country's economy and military.

The congress, set to begin on Friday, is the first in 36 years and follows a 70-day "loyalty drive" in which everyone from coal miners to restaurant workers were called upon to put in extra hours to increase productivity as a show of their devotion to Kim and the Workers' Party of Korea, which he leads.

The congress comes as North Korea is facing international pressure over a nuclear test in January and a series of rocket and missile launches that have led many outside experts to believe Pyongyang is much closer to having a viable nuclear deterrent than previously thought.

The North, wary of its leader's security and always loath to release any more information to the outside world than it deems absolutely necessary, has disclosed few details of the congress' itinerary. Instead, it has presented the congress as a chance for the ruling party to boast its achievements and unity in the face of the "U.S. imperialists."

But North Korea's foreign minister told The Associated Press in an April 23 interview that the congress would focus on demonstrating unity behind the country's leader and on finding ways to build the North's moribund economy even as global sanctions squeeze it ever tighter.



AP
In this Saturday, Oct. 10, 2015 file photo, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un waves at a parade in Pyongyang, North Korea.

"One of the most important things through this party congress is to show to the entire world the union of our people," Foreign Minister Ri Su Yong told the AP while he was in New York for a United Nations conference on climate change. "I'm sure our country will be even more vibrant after the party congress to build up a more prosperous and powerful, economically sound nation."

The event will be an opportunity for Kim Jong Un to assume center stage before a world audience. Throngs of foreign journalists are being invited to cover it. That's all the more important because the enigmatic young leader, still in his early 30s, has yet to travel abroad or meet any other heads of state.

In the last party congress, held in 1980, Kim's late father, Kim Jong Il, was awarded a slew of top jobs in a confirmation he was in line to succeed his father, North Korea founder Kim Il Sung.

Kim Il Sung died in 1994, so Kim Jong Il—who rarely spoke in public and never held a congress after actually assuming power—had 14 years to prepare for power. Kim Jong Un, on the other hand, was virtually unknown outside of the Pyongyang inner circle until a few years before his own father's death in 2011.

Still, there are no signs his position as the head of the world's only socialist dynasty is in question.

The congress will give Kim, who seems to be more like his grandfather and less averse to addressing big crowds, a chance to further cement his authority by getting its stamp of approval on officials who are in his favor. He has conducted numerous shake-ups in the regime's top ranks—the most prominent being the execution of his powerful uncle in 2013—to make sure he is surrounded by loyal lieutenants.

Militants free 10 Indonesian hostages in south PH

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Abu Sayyaf militants have freed 10 Indonesian crewmen who were seized at sea in March in the first of three attacks on tugboats that have sparked a regional maritime security alarm, officials said Sunday.

The Indonesians appeared to be in good health when they were dropped off Sunday afternoon in front of the house of Sulu province's governor in the town of Jolo, said the town's police chief, Junpikar Sitin. The 10 men were then brought to a Philippine military camp and arrangements were underway to turn them over to Indonesian officials.

A photo seen by The Associated Press shows the sunburned men in fresh shirts eating rice and chicken with Sulu's governor on a veranda beside a Japanese-style garden in his house. In another photo, some of the men are puffing cigarettes and enjoying coffee while resting on chairs.

Jolo's mayor, Hussin Amin, welcomed the release of the Indonesians, but said he did not know whether a ransom had been paid.

"If this big release came in exchange for money, those who paid are supporting the Abu Sayyaf," he said. "This money will be used to buy more firearms and will be utilized as mobilization funds by these criminals."

Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo thanked the Philippines and the "many parties" in Indonesia who cooperated to secure the release of the hostages.

At a televised news conference at a presidential palace in the West Java province city of Bogor, Jokowi said the government was continuing to work for the release of four other Indonesians who were taken hostage by suspected Abu Sayyaf militants in a separate incident last month.

A Philippine army officer who has been helping to deal with kidnappings by the Abu Sayyaf said a rebel commander from the Moro National Liberation Front, which has signed a peace deal with the Philippine government, helped negotiate with the Abu Sayyaf for the release of the 10 Indonesians.

The hostages were escorted down from a jungle encampment in Sulu and left outside the home of the governor, Abdusakur Tan II, the army officer said by phone on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters.

After the Indonesians were kidnapped at sea in March, suspected Abu Sayyaf militants separately attacked two other tugboats and snatched four Indonesians and four Malaysians who are believed to have also been brought by speedboats to the militants' jungle bases in Sulu, a predominantly Muslim province about 950 kilometers (590 miles) south of Manila.

French leader says all new subs will be built in Australia

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—A new fleet of French-designed Australian submarines will be built in Australia on time and within budget, the French prime minister said on Monday.

Prime Minister Manuel Valls met his Australian counterpart Malcolm Turnbull on Monday, a week after Australia announced that DCNS, a French state majority-owned company, had been chosen to design 12 diesel-electric submarines.

Australia expects the new fleet will cost at least 56 billion Australian dollars ($43 billion), although contracts have yet to be signed to create a DCNS-Australia partnership to build the world's largest conventionally powered submarines.

Valls dismissed speculation that at least the first 97-meter (318-foot) long Shortfin Barracuda subs would be built in a DCNS shipyard in France before construction shifted to the Australian manufacturing hub of Adelaide.

"The choice of the Australian government was to have the 12 submarines built in Australia and this was the basis of our agreement," Valls told reporters at Parliament House through a translator.

"This contract represents also a lot of work for the DCNS staff both in France and across the world," he said.

Turnbull, who faces an election on July 2, agreed that the "entire submarine fleet" would be built in Adelaide by Australian workers with Australian steel.

"The success of the project will draw upon the expertise and technology and resources of our two great countries," Turnbull said.

Both prime ministers agreed that the project boosted the strategic relationship between their countries to a new level and would bind them in a partnership for more than 50 years through submarine construction and maintenance.

Valls said he was personally overseeing the implementation of DCNS's commitments made in its bid against rival submarine manufacturers from Germany and Japan.

"We will meet our commitments be it on the timeline, on the financial commitments or on the performances of the submarines," Valls said.

ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems Australia chairman John White said last week that while he was disappointed that the German bid had not been selected, his company stood ready to support the French project through its personnel's experience in building submarines in Australia.

Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani said he would seek an explanation from Australia to find out why the Japanese submarine wasn't selected.

The first of the 4,500 metric ton (5,000 U.S. ton) subs is due to be launched in 2027.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Air force copters douse massive forest fires in north India

LUCKNOW, India (AP)—Massive forest fires are sweeping through the north Indian state of Uttarakhand and have killed at least seven people in recent weeks with no signs of abating. The Indian government joined state firefighters over the weekend in trying to douse the blaze. Air force helicopters were deployed Sunday to drop water on the fires tearing through hundreds of acres (hectares) of pine forests. State Forest Officer Bhanu Prasad Gupta said the scattered fires were spreading and were threatening two of the country's major tiger conservation reserves. Federal Environment Minister Prakash Javdekar said Monday that four men have been arrested over the weekend for starting forest fires. Two consecutive years of poor monsoons have led to dry conditions making vast areas vulnerable to forest fires.

3 detained after stabbing death of Hindu man in Bangladesh

NEW DELHI (AP)—Police in Bangladesh have detained three men, including the head of an Islamic school, in connection with the stabbing death of a Hindu tailor in an attack claimed by the Islamic State group. Police officer Saleh Muhammed Tanvir says the men were detained Sunday in the central district of Tangail. Nikhil Joarder was killed Saturday in his Tangail shop by two men on motorcycles. The Islamic State group-affiliated Aamaq news agency issued a statement Saturday saying "elements of the Islamic State stabbed to death by knife a Hindu in Tangail in Bangladesh who was known for insulting Prophet Muhammad." Joarder spent two weeks in prison in 2012 after a complaint that he made comments against Prophet Muhammad. He was released after the complaint was withdrawn.

World

US once again forced to turn to Russia for help on Syria

GENEVA (AP)—Scrambling to resuscitate a nearly dead truce in Syria, the Obama administration has again been forced to turn to Russia for help, with little hope for the desired U.S. outcome.

At stake are thousands of lives and the fate of a feeble peace process essential to the fight against the Islamic State group, and Secretary of State John Kerry has appealed once more to his Russian counterpart for assistance in containing and reducing the violence, particularly around city of Aleppo.

"We are talking directly to the Russians, even now," Kerry said on his arrival in Geneva as he began talks with Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh. "The hope is we can make some progress, but the UN Security Council Resolution calls for a full country, countrywide, cessation and also for all of the country to be accessible to humanitarian assistance. Obviously that hasn't happened and isn't happening."

"These are critical hours. We look for Russia's cooperation. We obviously look for the regime to listen to Russia and to respond to the international communities' powerful statement to the UN Security Council."

Kerry spoke at length on Friday with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to that end, and had been hoping to meet with Lavrov soon, according to U.S. officials.

In Geneva, Kerry met with Judeh and was to meet U.N. envoy Staffan de Mistura and Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir on Monday before returning to Washington.

But Lavrov was not expected to be in Geneva, complicating Kerry's efforts to make the case directly to the Russians for more pressure on their Syrian government allies to stop or at least limit attacks in Aleppo.

The State Department said Kerry, in his meetings, would "review ongoing efforts to reaffirm the cessation of hostilities nationwide in Syria, obtain the full humanitarian access to which the Syrian government committed and support a political transition."

Specific, viable options to achieve those broad goals are limited, and Friday's announcement of a new, partial cease-fire that does not include Aleppo underscored the difficulty Kerry faced.

U.S. and other officials described that initiative, brokered mainly by Russia and the United States as co-chairs of the International Syria Support Group, as a "reinforcement" of the February truce, now largely in tatters, that they hope to extend from Damascus and the capital's suburbs and the coastal province of Latakia to other areas.

AP

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, right, listens as Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh, talks to the media during a bilateral meeting on Syria in Geneva, Switzerland, Sunday, May 1, 2016.

WORLD BRIEFS

Calm returns to much of Syria as government extends truce

BEIRUT (AP)—Syria's military extended a unilateral cease-fire around the capital for another 24 hours on Sunday, as relative calm set in across much of the country after days of heavy fighting concentrated in the northern city of Aleppo. Aleppo, the country's largest city and a key battleground in the civil war, was not covered by the cease-fire but saw less fighting on Sunday. More than 250 people have died in shelling and airstrikes in the northern city over the last nine days, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The government declared its own cease-fire around Damascus and the coastal Latakia region Friday following two weeks of escalating unrest. But more than three dozen rebel factions said Saturday they would not respect the truce unless the government agreed to extend it over the whole country.

Car bomb in southern Turkey kills 2 police officers

ANKARA, Turkey (AP)—A car bomb struck the entrance of a Turkish police station Sunday in the southern city of Gaziantep, killing two police officers and wounding 22 other people in a day marred by violence and May Day protests. Four civilians were among those wounded in the explosion, according to Gov. Ali Yerlikaya of Gaziantep province. The blast shattered the windows of nearby buildings. The police station is close to offices for the governor and mayor. Gaziantep is also home to the offices of international aid organizations focused on the conflict in neighboring Syria. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. A Turkish interior ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with government practice, said investigations were ongoing.

Killing of 5 Egyptians deepens mystery over Italian's death

CAIRO (AP)—It was a brutal killing that became an international incident: An Italian graduate student disappeared from the streets of the Egyptian capital in January, his body discovered days later dumped by a roadside, tortured to death.

The death of Guilio Regeni quickly poisoned ties between Egypt and Italy, where suspicions were high that Egyptian police—who have long been accused of using torture and secret detentions—snatched the 28-year-old and killed him. Egyptian officials—as high up as the president, Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, in a national address—have denied any police role, but in the months since the slayings, the Italian government has hiked the pressure for answers.

Then last month came a surprise twist. Egyptian police announced they had killed a gang of five Egyptian men they said specialized in kidnapping and robbing foreigners and, while searching the gang leader's sister's home, came upon Regeni's passport. Government media proclaimed that Regeni's killers had been found.

The claim was immediately dismissed by Italian officials as not credible, with some Italian media calling it an outright cover-up. Even the editor-in-chief of Egypt's top government newspaper, Al-Ahram, wrote that Egyptian authorities had to get serious about uncovering the truth and that such "naive stories" about Regeni's death were only hurting the country.

Now accounts from witnesses and family members interviewed by The Associated Press raise further questions about the official version of the March 24 shooting in a wealthy suburban enclave outside Cairo. The Interior Ministry said security forces hunting for the gang stopped their minibus and the men opened fire on them, prompting a gunbattle in which all five were killed.

Protests disband after IS group carries out 2nd Iraq bombing

BAGHDAD (AP)—Anti-government protesters disbanded at least temporarily Sunday from the heavily fortified Green Zone they had stormed a day earlier after the Islamic State group carried out its second major attack in Iraq in as many days—a pair of car bombs that killed more than 30 people.

The country's political crisis intensified Saturday when hundreds of supporters of Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr tore down walls and poured into the zone that is home to the seat of the Iraqi government and most foreign embassies. Loudspeaker announcements on Sunday evening urged protesters to leave peacefully. When the call came, hundreds calmly packed up and left, carrying flags and overnight bags away with them.

Later in the day, families walked through the compound's smoothly paved streets and snapped pictures beside its well-watered gardens, and young men bathed in a fountain. Such scenes are entirely divorced from the rest of the city's crumbling infrastructure and neglected public spaces.

The Green Zone, surrounded by thick blast walls topped with razor wire, is off-limits to most Iraqis because of security procedures that require multiple checks and specific documentation to enter. It has long been the focus of al-Sadr's criticism that the government is detached from the people.

Supporters of al-Sadr have been holding demonstrations and sit-ins for months to demand an overhaul of the political system put in place by the U.S. following the overthrow of Saddam Hussein in 2003. Last summer, demonstrations demanding better government services mobilized millions across Iraq and pressured Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi to submit his first package of reform proposals. However, months of stalled progress followed, and in recent months al-Sadr's well organized supporters took over the protest movement.

Despite the subdued end to the latest protest, Iraqi officials fear the precedent set by the Green Zone breach will continue to undermine the country's security.

Earlier on Sunday, car bombs in the southern city of Samawah killed 31 people and wounded at least 52. A police officer said two parked cars filled with explosives were detonated within minutes of each other around midday, the first near government offices and the second at an open-air bus station less than a kilometer (mile) away. On Saturday, an IS-claimed bombing in a market filled with Shiite civilians in Baghdad killed at least 21 people and wounded at least 42 others.

The attacks were just the latest in a series of IS-claimed bombings in Iraq. Over the past month, the United Nations said at least 741 Iraqis were killed in April due to ongoing violence. On March 25, an IS-claimed suicide bombing attack on a stadium filled with children killed 29 and wounded 60.

Focus

AP

In this photo taken on Monday, April 11, 2016, a radiation warning sign is placed near the check-point 'Maidan' of the state radiation ecology reserve inside the 30 km exclusion zone around the Chernobyl nuclear reactor, some 370 km (231 miles) south-east of Minsk, Belarus. The sign is placed in two kilometres distance of Nikolai Chubenok farm.

AP Exclusive: Test finds Chernobyl residue in Belarus milk

GUBAREVICHI, Belarus (AP)—On the edge of Belarus' Chernobyl exclusion zone, down the road from the signs warning "Stop! Radiation," a dairy farmer offers his visitors a glass of freshly drawn milk. Associated Press reporters politely decline the drink but pass on a bottled sample to a laboratory, which confirms it contains levels of a radioactive isotope at levels 10 times higher than the nation's food safety limits.

That finding on the eve of the 30th anniversary of the world's worst nuclear accident indicates how fallout from the April 26, 1986, explosion at the plant in neighboring Ukraine continues to taint life in Belarus. The authoritarian government of this agriculture-dependent nation appears determined to restore long-idle land to farm use—and in a country where dissent is quashed, any objection to the policy is thin.

The farmer, Nikolai Chubenok, proudly says his herd of 50 dairy cows produces up to two tons of milk a day for the local factory of Milkavita, whose brand of Parmesan cheese is sold chiefly in Russia. Milkavita officials called the AP-commissioned lab finding "impossible," insisting their own tests show their milk supply contains traces of radioactive isotopes well below safety limits.

Yet a tour along the edge of the Polesie Radioecological Reserve, a 2,200-square-kilometer (850-square-mile) ghost landscape of 470 evacuated villages and towns, reveals a nation showing little regard for the potentially cancer-causing isotopes still to be found in the soil. Farmers suggest the lack of mutations and other glaring health problems mean Chernobyl's troubles can be consigned to history.

"There is no danger. How can you be afraid of radiation?" said Chubenok, who since 2014 has produced milk from his farm just 45 kilometers (28 miles) north of the shuttered Chernobyl site, and two kilometers (a mile) from the boundary of a zone that remains officially off-limits to full-time human habitation. Chubenok says he hopes to double his herd size and start producing farmhouse cheese on site.

His milk is part of the Milkavita supply chain for making Polesskiye brand cheese, about 90 percent of which is sold in Russia, the rest domestically. The World Bank identifies Russia as the major market for Belarusian food exports, which represent 15 percent of the country's export economy.

Since rising to power in 1994, President Alexander Lukashenko—the former director of a state-owned farm—has stopped resettlement programs for people living near the mandatory exclusion zone and developed a long-term plan to raze empty villages and reclaim the land for crops and livestock. The Chernobyl explosion meant 138,000 Belarusians closest to the plant had to be resettled, while 200,000 others living nearby left voluntarily.

One of the most prominent medical critics of the government's approach to safeguarding the public from Chernobyl fallout, Dr. Yuri Bandazhevsky, was removed as director of a Belarusian research institute and imprisoned in 2001 on corruption charges that international rights groups branded politically motivated. Since his 2005 parole he has resumed his research into Chernobyl-related cancers with European Union sponsorship.

Bandazhevsky, now based in Ukraine, says he has no doubt that Belarus is failing to protect citizens from carcinogens in the food supply.

"We have a disaster," he told the AP in the Ukraine capital, Kiev. "In Belarus, there is no protection of the population from radiation exposure. On the contrary, the government is trying to persuade people not to pay attention to radiation, and food is grown in contaminated areas and sent to all points in the country."

The milk sample subjected to an AP-commissioned analysis backs this picture.

The state-run Minsk Center of Hygiene and Epidemiology said it found strontium-90, a radioactive isotope linked to cancers and cardiovascular disease, in quantities 10 times higher than Belarusian food safety regulations allow. The test, like others in resource-strapped Belarus, was insufficiently sophisticated to test for heavier radioactive isotopes associated with nuclear fallout, including americium and variants of plutonium.

The Belarusian Agriculture Ministry says levels of strontium-90 should not exceed 3.7 becquerels per kilogram in food and drink. Becquerels are a globally recognized unit of measurement for radioactivity.

The Minsk lab informed the AP that the milk sample contained 37.5 becquerels. That radioactive isotope is, along with cesium-137, commonly produced during nuclear fission and generates most of the heat and penetrating radiation from nuclear waste. When consumed, scientists say strontium-90 mimics the behavior of calcium in the human body, settling in bones.

Milkavita chief engineer Maia Fedonchuk rejected the findings.

"It's impossible. We do our own testing. There must have been a mix-up," she said, adding they test samples from every batch of milk they receive from Chubenok and do an "in-depth" analysis every six months. She said the plant's own lab analysis indicates its overall milk supply contains an average of 2.85 becquerels per kilogram.

A person who answered the telephone at the press office of the Belarusian Emergency Situations Ministry, which is tasked with dealing with the fallout of the nuclear disaster, said they would not comment on the AP's findings.

Health officials say the danger level posed by low levels of radioactive isotopes depends greatly on length of exposure and individual physiology. Notably, the regional free-trade bloc that includes Belarus and Russia permits higher levels of strontium-90 in goods of up to 25 becquerels per kilogram, still lower than that detected in the AP-commissioned test.

The question is whether anyone in authority is positioned to identify the true level of risks in produce from farms on the frontier of Belarus' prohibited zone.

The deputy director of Belarus' Institute of Radiobiology, Natalya Timokhina, said Belarus permits food producers to conduct their own food safety monitoring and lacks the lab equipment necessary to identify the presence of americium, which is estimated to be present in about 2 percent of Belarus' top soil and is expected to remain a health risk for another 270 years.

"One-time ingestion of contaminated food is not very dangerous," Timokhina said. "What's dangerous is the accumulation of radionuclides in the body."

Ausrele Kesminiene, a doctor in the cancer research unit of the World Health Organization, said the consumption of radioactive food is linked chiefly to the development of cancer in the thyroid, a gland in the neck that produces body-regulating hormones. Thyroid cancer is typically not fatal if diagnosed early.

WHO officials say they are dependent on reports from sister agencies in Belarus to alert them to cancer clusters or other signs of unresolved Chernobyl-related dangers. Gregory Hartl, a WHO spokesman in Geneva, said the agency had no authority to regulate or oversee food safety—even products exported to other countries—because that is a domestic responsibility.

"Radiation effects and the development of cancers and the effects on the region are something which go on over a long, long period. So we haven't seen the end of it," Hartl said. "Undoubtedly there is going to be some increase in cancers."

Hartl said WHO officials have not received "any red flags" from Belarus.

Environmentalists critical of Belarus' Chernobyl cleanup record says that's hardly surprising, since the government has funded no machinery to scrutinize corrupt practices in the food industry. As a result, they say, no Belarusian food maker has ever been prosecuted for using ingredients or producing goods containing excessive levels of radioactive materials.

Irina Sukhiy, founder of the Belarus ecological group Green Network, said workers in food-industry factories have confidentially told her that ingredients and products are blended to dilute the impact of potentially radioactive ingredients from Belarusian suppliers bordering Ukraine. Such alleged mixing, she said, reduces the level of potentially carcinogenic isotopes in dairy products and processed meat below "the allowable dose, but it is still hazardous to health."

The division of the Belarusian Emergencies Ministry responsible for cleaning up the consequences of Chernobyl says that the rate of thyroid cancer in children runs 33 times higher than before the nuclear blast. It says thyroid cancer rates run several times higher in adults.

Farmers working both on the edge of, and inside, the prohibited zone say they see no obvious signs of nuclear dangers, have been given no guidelines on reducing the risk of permitting radioactive isotopes into the food chain, and aren't worried about this.

Chubenok, the dairy farmer, said he had never heard of the sorbent substance Ferocin, known as Prussian Blue, which farmers in Ukraine feed their cattle to accelerate the removal of the cesium-137 isotope from their digestive tracts.

A tractor driver on one of his neighboring farms, where an abandoned village has been demolished to make way for fields of grain, says he's never seen an official testing for radiation levels in the soil. But Leonid Kravchenko said there was no reason for alarm.

"Nobody's in danger," he said.

Driving toward Chernobyl and into the nearby Radioecological Reserve required AP journalists to negotiate painstaking government permission. Inside the zone, Belarus has authorized an experimental farm to operate for the past decade. Today it contains 265 horses, 56 cows and apiaries buzzing with honey bees.

The farm director, Mikhail Kirpichenko, said he's permitted to pursue commercial ventures, including the sale last year of 100 horses to a Belarusian manufacturer of kumys, a popular beverage in swathes of Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Kumys is produced from fermented mares' milk.

"We're not afraid of radiation. We've already gotten used to it," said Kirpichenko, who suggested that his horses had to pass a basic eyesight test to confirm their good health.

"Horses aren't being born with two heads or without legs. There are no such mutations," he said. "This Chernobyl syndrome passed long ago."

Overdrive

AUTO REVIEW:

Alfa Romeo 4C built for the driving purist

By BARRY SPYKER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The Alfa Romeo 4C is back for 2016. It's still so loud you'll barely hear the all-new sound system. The ride is as harsh as ever. Its manual steering requires substantial arm strength at low speed. And you must bend and fold yourself to get into the cramped cabin.

But never mind the details. This is a story of one of the great sports cars of all time, a wonderful, astoundingly fun and raucous machine.

Oh yeah, it will take some time, effort and patience to make friends with the Alfa, as suggested above. But on corners and the open road, with its turbocharged engine hissing away just behind the driver's seat, driving enthusiasts will discover it's all worthwhile.

Alfa, the Italian carmaker that is now part of Fiat Chrysler, introduced the 4C last year after a nearly 20-year absence in the U.S. The major components return for 2016 but Alfa has added optional carbon fiber elements, leather seats and an improved Alpine sound system.

To the dismay of some, there is still no manual transmission available. But shifts are far faster with the six-speed, dual-clutch automated manual transmission — 130 milliseconds at full throttle, we're told. And there are paddle shifters behind the flat-bottomed wheel.

The 4C is sure to turn heads with its flared front fenders, swept-back headlights and air scoops on the sides. By most accounts, this is one of the most stylish sports cars on the planet at any price.

Seated just inches off the ground, the road feel and steering feedback are much like a Formula car I once test-drove at the Pocono Raceway in upstate Pennsylvania. Steering response is lightning fast — it is entirely unassisted. Without power-assist, though, parking the little bugger and taking it through slow turns is a bear.

So the Alfa is not best suited for everyday driving (though combined mileage stands at an impressive 28 mpg), but it is eager and built for Sunday track days. Under the rear deck sits a 1.7-liter turbocharged engine that produces 237 horsepower and 258 pound-feet of torque.

That may not sound like much in the world of muscle cars but there's plenty of low-end kick for a good takeoff, and it sounds cool as the turbo sucks in air and hisses between shifts. Getting the Alfa to 60 mph takes just 4.2 seconds; top speed is rated at 160 mph. Yeah, it's a small engine but the whole dang car, with its aluminum frame and composite plastic panels, weighs 2,500 pounds soaking wet.

There is some turbo lag but nothing you can't live with. And the rear-wheeled Alfa has a four-mode drive selector so you can switch from natural to all-weather to track settings in a heartbeat.

The Alfa offers its biggest thrills on corners, which are taken nearly as flat as the straightaways. The 4C rides on bigger wheels in the rear — 19 inches there, 18 inches up front — for better grip and handling.

Helping keep things stable is a double-wishbone setup in the front and MacPherson struts in the rear. Stopping comes quickly and sharply with a Brembo brake package.

Climbing into the 4C coupe is a challenge. And, once inside, the quarters are cramped. Limited shoulder room, no place to rest the arms, no glove box or other storage cubicles. No center console. There are a couple of small cupholders but they're behind the seats and awkward to reach.

Cargo space is a joke, too, at 3.7 cubic feet — and be careful what you put back there because it's situated next to the engine so it may get toasty.

The cabin is actually a carbon fiber bucket, which is pretty cool since you can see stretches of carbon fiber everywhere you look. Interior features, not so cool. The instrument panel and dash are sparse. Bluetooth and USB port are all there is to brag about.

The Alfa comes in a two-passenger coupe or roadster called the Spider, which gets either a cloth or optional carbon fiber top. Two trims are available plus options like parking sensors, cruise control, bigger wheels and red-painted brake calipers.

A Track package adds more carbon fiber, louder sport exhaust and a track-tuned suspension. This is for serious competitors or the insane.

The 4C, simply, is not for everyone except those who can live with rough, loud and uncomfortable on a daily basis. Most of us are willing to admit we want some creature comforts enmeshed with our fun.

But driving purists who are willing to make the sacrifices may never find more precision, more tenacity and more raw driving fun at these prices.

NUTS & BOLTS

2016 Alfa Romeo 4C
- **MSRP:** $57,495
- **Spider:** $63,900
- **Powertrain:** 1.7-liter turbocharged inline 4-cylinder with 6-speed twin-clutch automated manual transmission
- **Zero-to-60 mph:** 4.2 seconds

TNS

The 2016 Alfa Romeo 4C is an astoundingly fun and raucous machine that is one of the most stylish sports cars anywhere at any price.

UNDER THE HOOD:

My van keeps killing its batteries

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q: I have a 2005 Dodge Caravan with about 60,000 miles on it. Over the past couple of years, it's gone through three batteries. The first of those lasted about two years. Each of the others went bad in less than two months. When they went bad, it was as though there was no battery in the car. Tests of these batteries indicated internal shorts. A test of the car showed it to be in good order electrically. Is there anything in the electrical system of this car that could cause this type of damage in a battery? I was told by an automotive technician that today's batteries are universally lacking in quality. I now wonder how many people are having this problem. Because the batteries are under warranty, it has cost me nothing for replacements. However, the inconvenience of being stranded and then sorting out things has been costly.
-R. Blair

A: The early death of an automotive battery is usually the result of one, or a combination, of the following: excessive vibration (an alarming number of replacement batteries are not remounted properly), excessive cycling (running the battery down to a low charge many times), undercharging or overcharging, high accessory usage under short driving cycles (not enough charging time to properly refill the charge), and excessive heat (can't be helped in some climates). It's tempting to say today's batteries aren't built as well those of the past, but I don't have the data to support that claim.

As for your issue, you can determine if a battery's internal cells are shorting with a conductance tester, which is the modern way of testing batteries, as opposed to the older, { CCA load test. Shorted cells can result from vibration-induced mechanical stress, poor manufacturing methods or a buildup of plate material in the bottom of a battery.

I'm wondering if another look might be taken to ensure your Caravan isn't behind some of this.

Car issues that can shorten battery life include small-but-persistent parasitic loads, such as a glove box light that never turns off or a network module that fails to go to sleep. In vehicles that are driven daily this might not pose a noticeable problem, but for folks who only occasionally drive their vehicle, especially for only short distances, this can lead to failed starts and dramatically shortened battery life. Testing for a parasitic drain has become a bit more complicated on newer vehicles as they have so many modules doing smart things.

Another way a battery can be quickly damaged is by an overcharging alternator boiling away electrolytes and overheating cells. Symptoms include battery sweating, excessive terminal corrosion and a battery that's unusually warm to the touch after driving. A bad alternator is easily tested for. High accessory use, coupled with short run times (less than 80 percent charge recovery), can lead to acid stratification, a growing problem with newer accessory-laden vehicles. This condition promotes internal corrosion, shortening life.

Two final things you can do are: a starter current draw test (rules out the possibility of a problematic starter overstressing the battery) and an alternator output test to ensure the charging system can function to its listed specification.

ABOUT THE WRITER

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Life & Style

Longtime chef: Prince fought throat, stomach pains recently

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—On stage, Prince was still captivating audiences at recent performances in Australia and California. He hosted a pop-up party at his Paisley Park studio, and there were few outward signs in his final months that anything was wrong.

But off stage, something was different. Prince began wanting meals that were easier to digest and was fighting off waves of sore throats and frequent upset stomachs, the musician's personal chef told The Associated Press.

■■■

AP

In this April 30, 2016 photo, chef Ray Roberts, who runs multiple Peoples Organic restaurants with his wife in the Twin Cities, prepares meals at his Edina, Minn., location.

Ray Roberts, who cooked for Prince nearly every day for almost three years, said in an interview that wasn't the man he saw nearly every night, "not even a hint. Not at all." But Roberts did start noticing changes in Prince's diet—he was eating less and drinking less water, and looked like he was losing weight.

"It felt like he wasn't himself probably the last month or two," Roberts said. "I think he was just struggling with being sick a lot."

Prince, who didn't eat meat, normally loved foods like roasted beets and minestrone soup with a harissa chermoula, an herb sauce from North Africa. In recent months, Roberts said, as Prince would have sore throats or seem like he wasn't feeling well for "weeks at a time," he would prefer smoothies and fresh juices to soothe his throat or stomach.

Stomach and throat ailments aren't unusual in a stubbornly cold Minnesota winter, and to the public, there was little to suggest something was amiss.

Since Prince's death, fans who saw him recently have talked about his energy and his mesmerizing performances with just a microphone and a piano. Many who saw his final public appearance at Paisley Park only days before he died said he may have seemed more tired—one person who was at one of his last shows in Atlanta said his speaking voice was weak at times—but overall he was not changed.

"He seemed fine. He looked normal and he had this kind of energetic glow that he always had," said Lars Larson, a Minneapolis man who often worked at Paisley Park for Prince's parties.

Even in private, Roberts said, Prince would soldier through and work. "It was amazing. I don't think I ever saw him really looking bad ever. He was always on point," he said.

Roberts and his wife began cooking for Prince in 2013 after an informal tryout with several other chefs, and he made all his meals for the musician in the restaurant-grade kitchen at Paisley Park.

Most of the time, Roberts would make light salads and soups—he said Prince particularly liked the roasted beets as well as a pesto broccolini dish. When Prince was gearing up for more shows and wanted to be more active, Roberts would scale back the sweets.

As for meat, there was none of it.

"I don't know if it was just an unwritten rule, but there was no meat there—ever," he said. "If somebody wanted to eat meat, they would have to eat it in the parking lot. And he was very serious about this."

Roberts saw Prince nearly every day. He cooked for him every day except Sunday—and sometimes even then. Combined with the four Peoples Organic restaurants he and he wife run in the Twin Cities, Roberts said he was working about 100 hours a week, with his schedule tightly tethered to Prince's. The musician would even bring Roberts and his wife on tour around the country at times to cook for him.

Still, Roberts said it was a dream job and he relished the opportunity to listen to Prince practice and jam with other famous musicians, never knowing who he would be cooking for next. He said Prince had a "higher purpose" and that while he could be a joker or even cocky, most of the time he was a "caring, thoughtful person" who apologized if he was running late and considered his employees family.

"I wish he was still here," he said, wiping away a tear. "That's what it boils down to." Roberts last saw Prince the evening before the musician was found dead at Paisley Park. He cooked Prince a roasted red pepper bisque with a kale and spring vegetable salad. But Prince never ate it. When he returned to the musician's studio home for his memorial service a few days later, Roberts found it in the refrigerator—just as he'd left it.

Prince made hundreds of millions of dollars for record companies, concert venues and others, and he owned about $27 million in property in Minnesota.

The "Purple Rain" star was found dead at his home on April 21. A law enforcement official has told The Associated Press that investigators are looking into whether Prince died from an overdose and whether a doctor was prescribing him drugs in the weeks beforehand.

A law enforcement official has told the AP that investigators are looking into whether Prince, who was found dead at his home on April 21, died from an overdose and whether a doctor was prescribing him drugs in the weeks beforehand. The official has been briefed on the investigation and spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

■■■

CHASKA, Minn. (AP)—Attorneys are tackling the complicated job of dividing up Prince's estate.

The first hearing is scheduled Monday in probate court in Carver County in suburban Minneapolis. Prince's full sister, Tyka (TY'-kuh) Nelson, filed papers last week saying Prince had no known will. That means under Minnesota law his estate would be divided among his surviving siblings.

'Jungle Book' rules box office again; 'Civil War' looms

NEW YORK (AP)—Disney's "The Jungle Book" trounced a handful of underperforming new releases to rule the box office for a third consecutive week, while next week's certain champ, "Captain America: Civil War," began setting records overseas.

Jon Favreau's live-action Rudyard Kipling adaptation earned $42.4 million in its third week at North American theaters, according to studio estimates Sunday. One of the year's biggest hits, "The Jungle Book" has now totaled $684.8 million globally.

The weekend's debuts withered under the stampede of "The Jungle Book."

Keegen-Michael Key and Jordan Peele's feline action-comedy "Keanu" opened with a modest $9.4 million. That was a whisker behind "The Huntsman: Winter's War," which limped its way to $9.4 million in its second disappointing week of release.

1. **"The Jungle Book,"** $42.4 million *($57.1 million international).*
2. **"The Huntsman: Winter's War,"** $9.4 million.
3. **"Keanu,"** $9.4 million.
4. **"Mother's Day,"** $8.3 million *($2.1 million international).*
5. **"Barber Shop: The Next Cut,"** $6.1 million.
6. **"Zootopia,"** $5 million *($8.3 million international).*
7. **"Ratchet & Clank,"** $4.8 million.
8. **"The Boss,"** $4.2 million.
9. **"Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice,"** $3.8 million *($2.8 million international).*
10. **"Criminal,"** $1.3 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:

1. **"Captain America: Civil War,"** $200.2 million.
2. **"The Jungle Book,"** $57.1 million.
3. **"Finding Mr. Right,"** $51 million.
4. **"Zootopia,"** $8.3 million.
5. **"MBA Partners,"** $7.5 million.
6. **"The Huntsman: Winter's War,"** $7.4 million.
7. **"Phantom of the Theater,"** $7 million.
8. **"Kung Fu Panda 3,"** $3.1 million.
9. **"Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice,"** $2.8 million.
10. **"Xuan Zang,"** $2.4 million.

AP

In this image released by Disney, Mowgli, portrayed by Neel Sethi, right, and Baloo the bear, voiced by Bill Murray, appear in a scene from, "The Jungle Book."

Warner Bros.' R-rated "Keanu," from the former Comedy Central stars of "Key and Peele," cost only about $15 million to make. In it, they play Los Angeles cousins who are led into a criminal underworld in their search for a lost cat.

Garry Marshall's latest holiday-themed romantic comedy, "Mother's Day," bowed with a weak $8.3 million despite the presence of stars Jennifer Aniston and Julia Roberts. Though Marshall's "Valentine's Day" opened with $56.2 million in 2010, audiences have since been less enthusiastic for his poorly reviewed Hallmark card ensembles. "Mother's Day," released by Open Road, even trails the $13 million opening of 2011's "New Year's Eve."

The video-game adaption "Ratchet & Clank," from Focus Features, made even less of a dent with an estimated $4.8 million.

With "Captain America: Civil War" opening next weekend in North America, the box office was largely in a holding pattern, waiting for Marvel to effectively launch the summer movie season. "Civil War" gave a preview of its might in 37 international territories over the weekend, taking in an estimated $200.2 million. That includes record openings in Mexico, Brazil and the Philippines for the film some expect to be the year's biggest hit.

Once it lands, Disney will have accounted for three of the top five movies of the year, along with "The Jungle Book" and "Zootopia."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

Kelly Ripa, Michael Strahan share in Daytime Emmy award

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The team of Kelly Ripa and Michael Strahan is going out on top with Emmy gold.

The "Live with Kelly and Michael" duo won the Daytime Emmy Award for best entertainment talk show host on Sunday, capping a tumultuous two weeks that began with Strahan's announced departure for "Good Morning America" and Ripa's reaction.

Neither Ripa or Strahan showed up at the non-televised ceremony in Los Angeles to claim the award, their second consecutive one in the category for their syndicated show.

Ripa reportedly had been upset that she learned only a few minutes before the public that Strahan, a former football star and her co-host since 2012, was exiting for "GMA."

She subsequently took several days off from "Live" and, when she returned, said she'd needed to gather her thoughts and that "apologies have been made," although she didn't specify by who. Strahan is set to leave May 13.

CBS' "The Talk" won the award for best entertainment talk show, while ABC's "The Chew" received the informative talk show trophy. Syndicated series "Extra" picked up the best entertainment news program award.

AP

In this Oct. 12, 2015 file photo, Kelly Ripa addresses the crowd during a ceremony honoring her with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles.

ABC's "General Hospital" was the big winner at the 43rd Daytime Emmy ceremony with five trophies, including best drama series and awards for lead actor Tyler Christopher, supporting actor Sean Blakemore and younger actor in a drama Bryan Craig. A best directing team award also went to the series.

Sonia Manzano received a lifetime achievement honor in recognition of her portrayal of the character Maria on "Sesame Street."

CBS' "The Price is Right" was honored as best game show, while Craig Ferguson won as game show host for "Celebrity Name Game."

"CBS Sunday Morning" earned the best morning program award.

Mary Beth Evans of NBC's "Days of Our Lives" received the trophy for lead drama series actress, while co-star True O'Brien won as outstanding younger actress. Jessica Collins of CBS' "The Young and the Restless" was honored as best supporting actress in a drama.

Former star of 'The West Wing' greets White House reporters

WASHINGTON (AP)—Allison Janney played a White House press secretary on "The West Wing." She got a chance to do the real thing on Friday.

Janney won four Emmy Awards playing C.J. Cregg and now stars on "Mom," for which she also won an Emmy.

She took the podium normally reserved for spokesman Josh Earnest and told reporters she hoped to bring attention to the nation's opioid epidemic.

Janney says addiction is a disease that can touch anybody. She noted the White House would be recognizing 10 people from across the country for their work to prevent prescription drug abuse.

A reporter asked Janney who President Bartlet from her old show would be supporting for the Democratic nomination: "I think you know the answer to that," Janney responded.

AP

Actress Allison Janney makes a surprise visit to the the daily news briefing at the White House, in Washington, Friday, April 29, 2016.

'Family Guy' creator to sing with Boston Pops opening night

BOSTON (AP)—"Family Guy" creator Seth MacFarlane is helping the Boston Pops kick off its spring concert series.

The 42-year-old actor and filmmaker will be the orchestra's opening night guest on Friday. He'll be singing a selection of popular songs from the 1940s and 1950s, according to the ensemble.

The New England native is no stranger to the orchestra: He also appeared with them over the summer.

MacFarlane was born in Kent, Connecticut, and graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence, Rhode Island.

Founded in 1885, the Boston Pops consists of musicians from the Boston Symphony Orchestra and generally plays popular music.

The following week, composer John Williams is slated to lead the orchestra in selections from "Star Wars," ''Jaws," ''Indiana Jones" and other movies he's scored.

Jack Black surprises cast of Broadway's 'School of Rock'

NEW YORK (AP)—The cast of Broadway's new musical "School of Rock" got the endorsement Sunday of someone they've desperately wanted to impress for months—Jack Black.

Black saw a matinee at the Winter Garden Theatre with his son and went backstage to high-five cast members and pose for pictures. He embraced Alex Brightman, the actor who plays Dewey—his old role—and signed a guitar for actor Spencer Moses.

"It was so good. There were so many times I went, 'I could not have done it that well,'" he said, surrounded by thrilled kids. "You made me laugh. You made me cry. You made me rock."

The stage version of "School of Rock" stays close to the plot of the Jack Black-led 2003 film, in which a wannabe rocker enlists his fifth-graders to form a rock group and conquer the Battle of the Bands.

"There are tips of the cap to him in the show. And I've just been waiting and waiting to show him these tips of the cap—and I'm thrilled that it worked," said Brightman. "He said he had 'man-tears' and that made me thrilled."

The musical, with a new story by Julian Fellowes and music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, started in November. And Black, who was joined by actor Paul Rudd and his son, called his visit "long overdue."

The film was a star vehicle for Black. He told The Associated Press he was initially reluctant to see it but afterward was blown away by how well the material lent itself to Broadway.

"You know, before coming, I wasn't sure. I'm so protective of the movie—it's kind of the best thing I've done in my life—but I was thrilled to see that they had taken it to a whole new level," he said. "Not only was it an homage but it's an incredible theatrical experience on its own."

AP

Actor Jack Black, center, and his son Samuel Black, center bottom, meet backstage with cast members of Broadway's "School of Rock" after watching a performance at the Winter Garden Theatre on Sunday, May, 1, 2016, in New York.

Struggling sister should get help and get going

DEAR ABBY: I have a hard time differentiating between enabling and just helping out my sister. Throughout her adult life, even while she was married, she has never been able to make ends meet.

She's single now and in her 50s, a hardworking but underemployed, depressed individual. I have a good job and I feel guilty if I don't help her each month. (She doesn't ask, but drops enough hints that I know things aren't going well.)

I have suggested repeatedly that she needs to find a better job. I even send her job leads, but I'm not sure she actually ever applies. My friends and relatives say I should use tough love and stop helping her. But I hate to see her struggle, and I don't want her kicked out of her apartment.

I will be retiring soon and won't be able to continue giving her money. What should I do?

SYMPATHETIC IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR SYMPATHETIC: Have a frank talk with your sister NOW. Ask her how many of the leads you gave her were followed up on. Because you say she is chronically depressed, encourage her to see a doctor and find out what kind of help there is for her. It may be the reason for her divorce and for her inability to seek other work and improve her financial situation.

That you will no longer be able to continue assisting her financially is something your sister needs to know ASAP, so she won't be cut off abruptly. This isn't tough love; that you will be on a fixed income is a fact of life. You have been a wonderful sister. You have done more than many people would, so do not feel guilty for taking care of yourself.

DEAR ABBY: It has been eight years since my first love, "Oliver," and I broke up. It was amicable and we both had closure. I have been in my current relationship for six years. We love each other very much and have two beautiful kids together.

I don't often think about Oliver and we haven't spoken since our split. But the crazy thing is, I dream about him constantly. The dreams are pretty tame and they don't make sense. I don't understand why this is happening. I know myself and I know I don't miss Oliver. I'm happy in my current relationship. So what gives, Abby?

TROUBLED OUT WEST

DEAR TROUBLED: I'm sure it's nothing to worry about. I was taught years ago that the things we see in our dreams are manifestations of our subconscious and are not meant to be taken literally. What you are dreaming about may not actually be Oliver at all, but something he symbolizes. Perhaps it's freedom, or youth -- who knows? But if the dreams persist and they bother you, I'm sure a couple of sessions with a licensed mental health professional would ease your mind.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

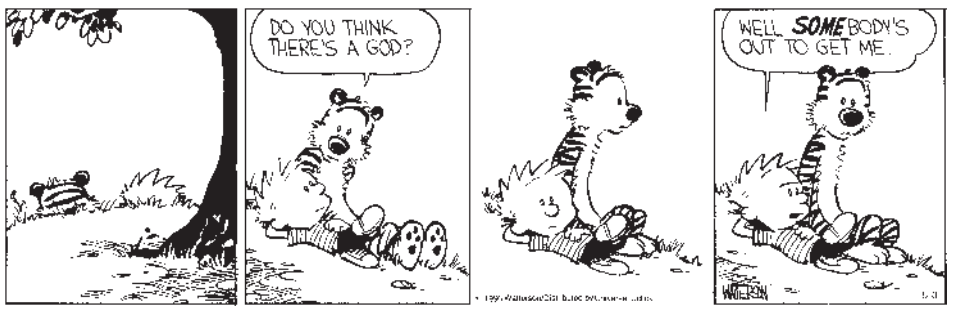
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

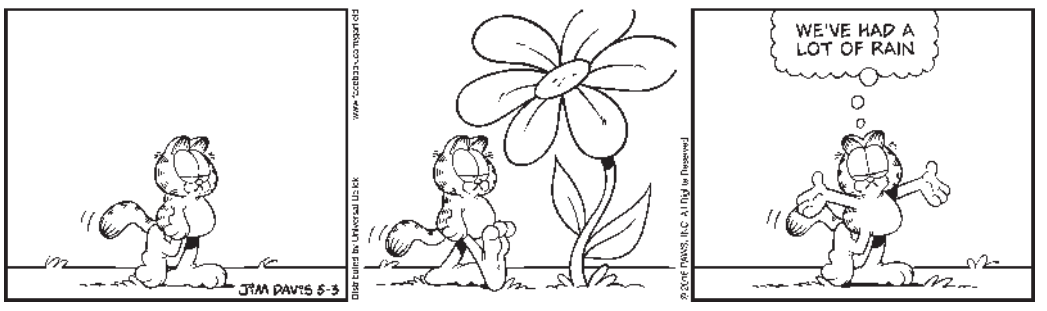
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



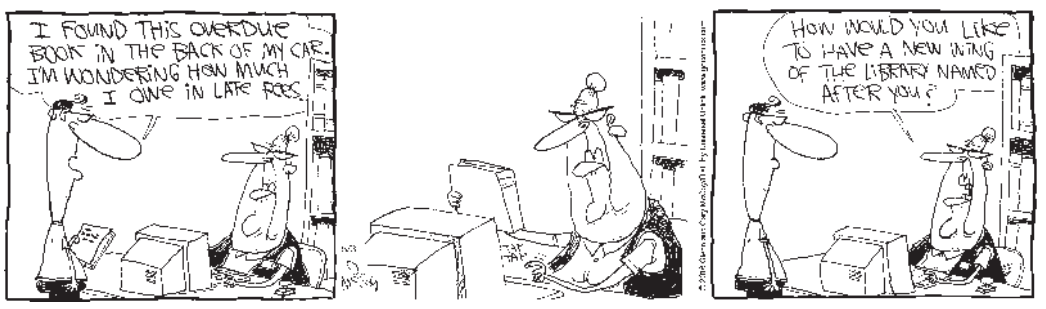
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WELL... I GOT MY FIRST REJECTION LETTER ON THE NOVEL.
OH NO.
YEAH, BUT IT'S OKAY... I'M OKAY.
WOW, I'M IMPRESSED. YOU'RE HANDLING THIS REALLY...
IT'S OKAY. I'M OKAY. IT'S OKAY. I'M OKAY. IT'S OKAY. I'M OKAY. IT'S
UH-OH.
WHOA! I DIDN'T KNOW KNUCKLES COULD GET THAT WHITE!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I FOUND THIS OVERDUE BOOK IN THE BACK OF MY CAR. I'M WONDERING HOW MUCH I OWE IN LATE FEES.
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A NEW WING OF THE LIBRARY NAMED AFTER YOU?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

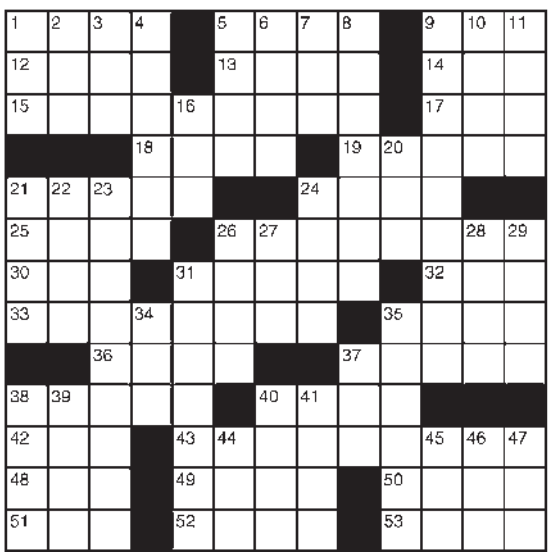
ACROSS
1 Cisterns
5 Blueprint
9 Mandible
12 Baseball's Moises
13 Nevada city
14 Swiss canton
15 Ostrich products
17 Scratch
18 Rival rival
19 Spousal nickname
21 Irate
24 Mediocre
25 Floral rings
26 Longfellow subject
30 Epoch
31 Informers
32 Shred
33 Sidewalk material
35 Beer ingredient
36 Golf props
37 Parson's home
38 Supermarket section
40 Seniors' org.
42 Witticism
43 Celestial ladle
48 Have bills
49 Concept
50 Wry Bombeck
51 Tree fluid
52 Relaxed
53 Subject, usually

DOWN
1 Actor Kilmer
2 Carte lead-in
3 Rocky peak
4 Sweeteners
5 Get ready, briefly
6 Toy block name
7 Director Lee
8 Absentees
9 Huge TV screen in a stadium
10 Bedouin
11 Lean and supple
16 TV Tarzan Ron
20 "Born in the —"
21 Actor Guinness
22 Pianist Peter
23 Major leap forward
24 Rice wine
26 Hastens
27 Bankbook abbr.
28 Swinging joints?
29 Church area
31 Giveaway
34 Cartoon frame
35 Occur
37 Hosp. scan
38 Book after Joel
39 Corn Belt state
40 Mellows
41 Forever and —
44 Lupino of film
45 Expert
46 Outback bird
47 Scooted

Solution time: 22 mins.

E	P	I	C	■	T	S	K	■	S	T	E	P
S	A	R	A	S	O	T	A	■	F	A	V	E
C	H	E	S	T	N	U	T	■	A	N	I	I
■	■	■	P	I	G	■	H	A	G	G	L	E
U	N	D	E	R	■	C	L	I	O	■	■	■
■	A	I	R	■	C	H	E	D	D	A	R	■
M	R	S	■	S	C	L	E	S	■	B	U	S
■	C	H	E	V	R	O	N	■	Z	E	S	T
■	■	■	M	E	R	E	■	B	E	T	T	Y
D	I	V	I	N	E	■	P	A	R	■	■	■
A	N	A	G	■	C	H	E	R	O	K	E	E
N	O	I	R	■	T	O	P	S	E	E	D	S
A	N	N	F	■	S	F	F	■	S	A	S	S

Yesterday's answer 5-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Cheryl Burke, 32; Christina Hendricks, 41; Dule Hill, 41; Kristin Lehman, 44.

Happy Birthday: Take pride in what you do. Refuse to defer to someone you don't agree with. It's your time to step up your game and show everyone who you are and what you are capable of doing. Opportunities will be found in the most unusual way. Don't let the changes others make distract you. Stay focused on reaching your goal. Your numbers are 4, 15, 17, 20, 26, 31, 42.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): A joint venture will help you financially, but beware of what's expected in return. Change is inevitable, but if handled properly can be quite beneficial. Don't waste time fighting with others. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You've got more options than you realize. Being secretive about your plans while gathering information that will help you deliver a solid presentation will result in new opportunities. Love will ease your stress and boost your confidence. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Make personal changes instead of trying to change the minds of people you don't agree with. Use discipline and courage to bring about the things that will help you achieve a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Let your imagination take over and you'll come up with creative ideas that will fill a void you've been feeling. A partnership will develop with someone you find inspirational. Changes at home are highlighted, and romance will lift your spirits. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Your desire for change will be met with opposition. Work alone if you want to get things done without interference. Don't count on help from someone who is looking for a handout. Pick your activities based on your needs. Physical activity is encouraged. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): An educational pursuit, business trip or exploring interests you share with someone special will give you something to look forward to. Don't be afraid to step outside your comfort zone. New and unfamiliar situations will keep you feeling challenged. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Make simple alterations that will not upset those around you. Keeping the peace at home or working toward similar goals will help you avoid a misunderstanding. Focus on saving money and making smart financial decisions. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Let go of the past. Harboring ill feelings about something you cannot change is a waste of time. Look at the present situation and assess how you can use your past experience to gain ground. Romance will improve an important relationship. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Work on improving your lifestyle or surroundings. Keep your distance from those offering pie-in-the-sky ideas that have no substance. Try to avoid letting your anger get the best of you. Solve personal problems with love and affection. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Concentrate on your home and family. Put your energy into personal matters and self-improvement. Refuse to let the changes going on around you distract you from your goals. Money will come from an unexpected source. Love will help you overcome depression. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Be reasonable when it comes to partnerships. Sharing responsibilities can make the difference in the outcome of a deal that means a lot to you. Find alternatives, but do your best to avoid arguments. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Try to avoid any problems with someone who is in a position to influence your future. Do your best to gain the confidence of others. Your actions and the personal adjustments you make will bring good results. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are spirited and inquisitive. You are resolute and calculating.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2		7	4				1
1				5				8
	9	8			1			
7	3					4		
	8						2	
		1					7	6
			2			6	9	
5				9				4
4				6	7		8	

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	9	8	2	7	1	3	6	5
7	5	3	8	6	4	1	9	2
6	1	2	3	9	5	8	7	4
3	4	7	1	2	6	5	8	9
1	8	9	7	5	3	4	2	6
2	6	5	4	8	9	7	3	1
8	2	6	5	1	7	9	4	3
5	7	4	9	3	2	6	1	8
9	3	1	6	4	8	2	5	7

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS Solution: 10 letters

A	L	K	L	A	W	S	S	O	R	C	E	S	C	C
R	O	S	R	O	O	D	T	U	O	L	P	T	O	O
M	O	N	I	T	O	R	H	S	T	E	R	N	M	N
B	H	E	L	P	A	W	G	S	E	A	S	E	M	D
A	C	P	P	N	E	A	I	D	F	T	N	D	U	I
N	S	O	S	A	L	H	L	F	R	F	I	I	N	T
D	T	I	T	F	W	I	I	U	O	R	C	C	I	I
S	T	H	D	E	M	C	C	R	E	H	O	N	C	O
T	E	E	U	I	D	T	C	C	I	E	N	I	A	N
R	A	G	T	S	I	E	T	L	T	E	E	R	T	S
A	C	N	Y	O	T	Y	D	A	E	R	S	T	E	I
V	H	A	N	D	S	R	H	S	E	V	O	L	G	G
E	R	R	A	Y	E	L	L	O	W	I	U	C	A	N
L	A	O	N	N	V	C	O	N	T	R	O	L	S	S
W	R	O	B	E	Y	R	A	T	N	E	M	E	L	E

©2016 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 5/3

Armbands, Children, Communicate, Conditions, Cones, Construction, Control, Crosswalk, Direct, Duty, Elementary, Enforce, Escort, Flags, Gloves, Hat, Help, Incidents, Lights, Limit, Monitor, Obey, Orange, Outdoors, Ready, Road, Rules, School, Signs, Speed, Stop, Street, Teach, Traffic, Transit, Travel, Vest, Warn, Weather, Whistle, Yellow

Yesterday's Answer: Evidence

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45 or 46**, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

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(1) Commercial Cleaner, (1) Sales Representative. Minimum salary. Send resume to SMJ Corporation. P.O. Box 503944 Saipan, MP 96950.

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KARIDAT

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Karidat is seeking warm, reliable individual for:

(1) Client Accounts Coordinator – Experience in domestic violence program administration and financial management/procurement required. Interested persons may pick up job descriptions and applications from Karidat's Main Office in Chalan Piao, VS Sablan Building 1st floor between 8am to 5pm, Monday-Friday.
Deadline for submission of application with all required attachment is May 13, 2016.
NO telephone inquiries and local hire only.

JVA for YANO Enterprises, Inc.
Dba: Kinpachi Restaurant

Yano Enterprises, Inc.:

Restaurant Waitress (3): (Full time) Greeting Customers. Must be able to speak basic Japanese & efficient English & have a friendly & outgoing personality. Should be knowledgeable of the restaurant dishes, familiar with the entire menu the establishment offers. Can introduce & recommend daily specials as well as the restaurant's regular menu items. Continued services after the meal have been served and accept payments & other duties related.

Cook (3): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus, must know cutting and preparation techniques for each type of fish used in sushi rolls as well as how to prepare rice, sauces and seasonal ingredients, must ensure that ingredients are fresh, colorful and always in stock, that the all-important knives are sharp and clean, and that all equipment is in working order. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Can work in flexible hours including weekends and night time.

Applicants of positions listed above Restaurant Waitress (3 months work experience) are required and Cook must have a minimum of 2 - 4 year experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.
We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered.
Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

Please no phone calls.

JAGUAR LIMITED
DBA CLUB MERMAID

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Bartender
- $6.05/hr.
- Must have 3-5 years work related experience

All applicants must be able to work flexible hours.
If interested, please mail resume to PMB 697 Box 10000, Saipan MP 96950 or call our office at 670-233-1545 between 2:30pm to 9:00pm.

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Qualified US Worker
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For more information, call: 287-8855

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(1) HVAC Technician $6.55-7.00 per hour
- Must be a high school graduate with minimum of 2 years' experience as a HVAC Technician-Install, service, or repair heating and air conditioning systems in residences or commercial establishments.
- Test pipe or tubing joints or connections for leaks, using pressure gauge or soap-and-water solution.
- Test electrical circuits or components for continuity, using electrical test equipment.
- Repair or replace defective equipment, components, or wiring.
- Discuss heating or cooling system malfunctions with users to isolate problems or to verify that repairs corrected malfunctions. Repair or service heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems to improve efficiency, such as by changing filters, cleaning ducts, or refilling non-toxic refrigerants.

All positions close on May 09, 2016. Interested applicants may apply at GPPC,INC. office located at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of police clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills, testing maybe required. GPPC, INC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

American Red Cross

Saipan Long-Term Recovery Project

Now Hiring:

Caseworker
Construction Analyst
Data Support Coordinator
Program Manager

www.americanredcross.apply2jobs.com

The American Red Cross is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, national origin, disability, protected veteran status, age, or any other characteristic protected by law.

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Warriors whip Blazers in opener of West semis

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—From the opening tip, Klay Thompson shot lights-out and even heaved one in from way out in Stephen Curry territory. Draymond Green began yapping from the start while doing his thing to make plays every which way, calling on his teammates to bring an edge on defense.

With Curry sidelined because of a sprained right knee, Green and Thompson took charge again. Their supporting cast came through in the clutch, too.

Thompson scored 37 points in another brilliant performance as his fellow "Splash Brother" watched injured, and the Golden State Warriors dominated once more without their MVP to beat the Portland Trail Blazers 118-106 Sunday in the opener of the Western Conference semifinals.

"Everything has to be racheted up," said Green, who posted his second career postseason triple-double with 23 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists for the defending champions. "I just told the guys that we've got to come out with a defensive mindset."

The offense happened on its own, with all five starters scoring in double figures.

Thompson hit seven more 3-pointers to become the first player in NBA history to make at least seven 3s in three straight playoff games.

Game 2 of the best-of-seven series is Tuesday night at Oracle Arena.

Golden State reserve Anderson Varejao and Portland's Gerald Henderson were ejected late in the third quarter after receiving their second technical fouls. Both were hit with a technical at the 3:29 mark of the third when Varejao tripped Henderson after they collided and the Portland guard jumped up, pointing a finger at his opponent's face. They kept jawing a few minutes later and were tossed with 15.1 seconds left in the period.

Thompson hit a Curry-esque 30-foot 3-pointer in the opening minutes followed by another jumper to put Golden State up 10-2, and the Warriors ran with it from there. Thompson scored 18 of his points in the first quarter on 7-for-10 shooting with four 3s as Golden State built a 37-17 lead.

Damian Lillard had another slow start back home in the Bay Area, missing 11 of his first 13 shots before finishing with 30 points—10 on free throws. Thompson had the tough chore of stopping him.

Shaun Livingston added 12 points and six assists after scoring 16 in each of his first-round starts in place of Curry.

The MVP injured his MCL when he slipped on a wet spot just before halftime of a Game 4 win at Houston in the first round last Sunday. He said Friday he hoped to do some shooting within a day or two, and that happened Saturday. He still will have to test the knee by putting pressure on it and planting on it when he shoots, then in some 5-on-5 scrimmages.

The Warriors had 38 and 30 assists their previous two games—including six quarters without Curry—by generating the kind of snappy ball movement coach Steve Kerr called for without Curry's playmaking. Then 27 more assists Sunday.

"They are an elite team either way, and they showed that tonight," said Lillard, his voice hoarse because of a chest cold. "We've just got to understand they're a good first-quarter team. We've got to be better from the start of the game."

Curry, dressed in a dark blue blazer and black shirt, emerged on the bench midway through the second quarter and received big cheers during a timeout. He was far less animated this time after picking up teammate Ian Clark during Wednesday's elimination of the Houston Rockets. His knee told him that was a bad idea, but he did resume light shooting Saturday in hopes of playing Game 3.

"We just got into a good groove Games 4 and 5 against Houston and that carried over," Kerr said. "Our guys have an understanding of what we are trying to accomplish, how we have to play without Steph."

The Blazers' two latest visits to Oracle were forgettable. Golden State routed them 128-112 on March 11 to avenge an embarrassing 32-point defeat in Portland last month coming out of the All-Star break. As Lillard scored 51 points, Golden State lost 137-105 at Portland on Feb. 19—its largest margin of defeat since a 39-point setback to Denver in 2012—before an impressive seven-game winning streak.

And on April 3, Golden State beat the Blazers here again in lopsided fashion.

On Sunday, Portland looked tired at times after eliminating the injury-plagued Los Angeles Clippers in six games Friday night before traveling to the Bay Area on Saturday.

The Blazers began the game 1 of 9 and missed their initial five 3-point attempts.

With Mason Plumlee going up for a one-handed dunk late in the first quarter, Andrew Bogut blocked the shot, then got a hand up to bother Al-Farouq Aminu's putback attempt. Bogut had another timely block in the second period.

AP
Golden State Warriors guard Klay Thompson, front left, is fouled by Portland Trail Blazers center Ed Davis while scoring during the second half in Game 1 of a second-round NBA basketball playoff series in Oakland, Calif., Sunday, May 1, 2016.

Heat 106, Hornets 73

In Miami, Goran Dragic scored 25 points, Gerald Green added 16 and Miami ended Charlotte's season, beating the Hornets in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference first-round series.

The Heat will open the second round at Toronto on Tuesday night.

Luol Deng scored 15 points, Dwyane Wade added 12 and Hassan Whiteside had a 10 points, 12 rebounds and five blocks for the Heat. They have won their last four Game 7s—each of the previous three coming along the way to winning NBA championships.

Raptors 89, Pacers 84

In Toronto, DeMar DeRozan scored 30 points, Jonas Valanciunas had 15 rebounds and 10 points and Toronto beat Indiana in Game 7 of the first-round series.

Rookie Norman Powell added 13 points, Kyle Lowry had 11 points and nine assists, and Patrick Patterson had 11 pointed to help Toronto win a seven-game series for the first time in franchise history.

The Raptors won their first postseason series since a five-game triumph over the New York Knicks in 2001, ending the NBA's longest active drought between playoff series victories.

Paul George led Indiana with 26 points and 12 rebounds, George Hill scored 19 points, and Monta Ellis had 15.

Back to the drawing board for Thunder after Game 1 loss

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—There was a possession where LaMarcus Aldridge grabbed a defense rebound, outlet-passed to Manu Ginobili, who then turned and fired a 70-foot strike to Kawhi Leonard for a dunk.

The whole play took about 3 seconds. And the ball never touched the floor.

Not everything came that easily for San Antonio in the opener of the Spurs' Western Conference semifinal series against Oklahoma City. It only seemed that way, as they rolled to a 124-92 win and will now look to take a 2-0 lead when the series resumes in San Antonio on Monday night.

"Now we've got to get back to the drawing board and see what we've got to do better to get ready for Game 2," Oklahoma City guard Russell Westbrook said. "Come out and play with a different mindset."

That would be a start.

The three worst playoff losses of Kevin Durant and Westbrook's time together in Oklahoma City all have one thing in common—they all happened in San Antonio.

The Spurs won by 35 on May 21, 2014, followed that up eight nights later with a 28-point win and now added a 32-pointer for good measure. And the Game 1 margin was the biggest defeat Thunder coach Billy Donovan has dealt with in more than 17 years.

It was Feb. 10, 1999—660 games ago for Donovan—when his Florida Gators lost 91-56 to Tennessee. That Gator team recovered and won four of its next five games, and if the Thunder are going to get out of this series they'll have to do something similar.

"I think the guys in that locker room are pretty competitive," Donovan said. "I think they're going to want to come back and respond."

The key for the Thunder in Game 2 will be stopping Aldridge. They had no answers for him in Game 1; Aldridge scored 38 points and didn't even play 30 minutes.

When the Spurs acquired him, it was evident that San Antonio would again be a major title favorite. It's working out exactly as San Antonio planned.

"I don't know an exact date," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said when asked how long it took Aldridge to get comfortable with the Spurs. "It was a progression. Any new player in a new program, it's a progression. It takes a little bit of time to get comfortable with the system and secondly, with teammates—who does what, when, where, how, all that kind of thing. It was just a steady kind of improvement and recognition as the year went on."

If players get asked to play big minutes Monday, that shouldn't be an issue. Game 3 isn't until Friday night in Oklahoma City.

Meanwhile, Magic Johnson, Michael Cooper and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar won 600 games together for the Los Angeles Lakers. Larry Bird, Kevin McHale and Robert Parish won 632 in their days as Boston Celtics teammates.

It took a long time for those numbers to be passed. It's going to take a real long time before anyone even comes near what Duncan, Parker and Ginobili have done—now with 700 wins together after Saturday's Game 1 triumph.

Kershaw fans 14, leads Dodgers past Padres

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Clayton Kershaw pitched a three-hitter, struck out 14 and also singled home the game's only run, leading the Los Angeles Dodgers over the San Diego Padres 1-0 on Sunday.

Kershaw (3-1) ended the Dodgers' six-game losing streak by pitching his 13th shutout and 22nd complete game in 248 career starts. The three-time NL Cy Young Award winner walked none and retired the first 14 batters.

Kershaw also hit an RBI single in the third off Drew Pomeranz (2-2), who gave up three hits in seven innings. Kershaw is 6-0 with an 0.98 ERA in his last nine starts against the Padres. The lefty threw seven innings of one-hit ball at San Diego on opening day in a 15-0 victory.

Red Sox 8, Yankees 7

In Boston, Christian Vazquez hit a two-run homer over the Green Monster to break a seventh-inning tie, sending Boston to a three-game sweep of rival New York.

Dustin Pedroia and Xander Bogaerts each had three hits and Travis Shaw homered for the Red Sox, who have won seven of eight to move into first place in the AL East.

Giants 6, Mets 1

In New York, Madison Bumgarner pitched through rain to extend his Citi Field scoreless streak to 18 innings, Hunter Pence homered and drove in three runs, and the San Francisco Giants ran at will against Noah Syndergaard to stop the New York Mets' eight-game winning streak.

White Sox 7, Orioles 1

In Baltimore, Chris Sale took a shutout into the sixth inning, Brett Lawrie homered for the third straight day and the Chicago White Sox beat the Baltimore Orioles for a split of the four-game series.

Jerry Sands had two RBI for the White Sox, who took a control with a five-run fifth inning against Ubaldo Jimenez (1-3).

Rockies 6, Diamondbacks 3

In Phoenix, Nolan Arenado hit his major league-leading 11th home run and Gerardo Parra also connected as the Colorado Rockies beat the Arizona Diamondbacks for a three-game sweep.

The Rockies swept a series in Phoenix for the first time since 2004. Colorado has won five of six from Arizona this season.

Brwers 14, Marlins 5

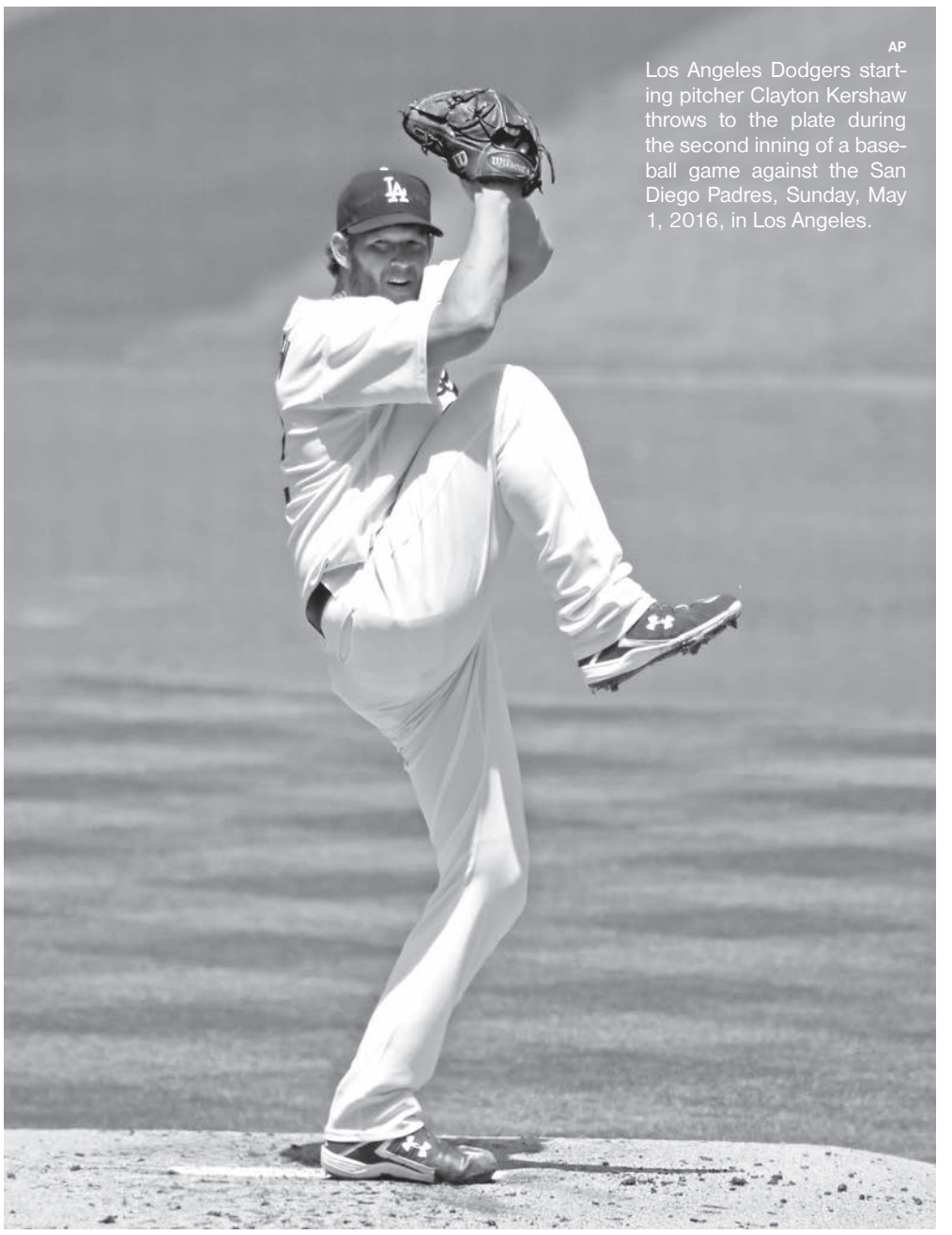
In Milwaukee, Chris Carter went 3 for 5 with two homers and three RBI to lead Milwaukee's season-high 18-hit barrage, and the Brewers beat Miami to snap the Marlins' seven-game winning streak.

Jonathan Villar also went 3 for 5, with two doubles and two runs scores for the Brewers,

Nationals 6, Cardinals 1

In St. Louis, Max Scherzer pitched seven strong innings to beat his hometown team for the first time, and the Washington Nationals completed a three-game sweep of the St. Louis Cardinals.

Clint Robinson and Danny Espinosa hit back-to-back home runs, providing the power for Washington on a day when NL MVP Bryce Harper struck out all four times up.



AP

Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Clayton Kershaw throws to the plate during the second inning of a baseball game against the San Diego Padres, Sunday, May 1, 2016, in Los Angeles.

Blue Jays 5, Rays 1

In St. Petersburg, Marcus Stroman allowed one run in eight innings on his 25th birthday, Troy Tulowitzki hit a three-run homer during a four-run ninth and the Toronto Blue Jays beat the Tampa Bay Rays.

The Blue Jays took two of three to win just their fourth series in the last 27 trips to Tropicana Field.

Reds 6, Pirates 5, 11 innings

In Pittsburgh, Scott Schebler hit an RBI double in the 11th inning and the Cincinnati Reds snapped a six-game skid that also ended the Pittsburgh Pirates' six-game winning streak.

Eugenio Suarez led off the Reds 11th with a triple past diving left fielder Starling Marte and scored on Schebler's hit off Ryan Vogelsong (1-1).

Phillies 2, Indians 1

In Philadelphia, Vince Velasquez tossed two-hit ball over six innings and the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Cleveland Indians for their sixth straight win.

Freddy Galvis had an RBI single a day after driving in three runs in a 4-3 win, helping the surprising Phillies win for the 15th time in 21 games since starting 0-4.

Astros 2, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Jose Altuve homered leading off a game for the fourth time this season -- one of just two hits by Houston -- and the Astros beat the Oakland Athletics to avoid a series sweep.

Doug Fister (2-3) gave up one run over 6 2/3 innings to end his three-game losing streak.

Tigers 6, Twins 5

In Minneapolis, Jarrod Saltalamacchia doubled home the go-ahead run in the eighth inning, Nick Castellanos hit a three-run homer and the Detroit Tigers beat the Minnesota Twins for their fifth straight victory.

Saltalamacchia's drive to left field off reliever Ryan Pressly (1-2) allowed Justin Upton to score from first.

Braves 4, Cubs 3, 10 innings

In Chicago, Daniel Castro singled and scored on Nick Markakis' sacrifice fly in the 10th inning, and the short-handed Atlanta Braves picked up a rare victory by beating the major league-leading Chicago Cubs.

Jason Grilli pitched a scoreless 10th for his second save.

Angels 9, Rangers 6

In Arlington, Kole Calhoun got three hits and drove in two runs as the Los Angeles Angels avoided a series sweep, beating Texas and ending the Rangers' four-game winning streak.

Shane Robinson got two hits, scored three times and drove in a run after being called up from the minors by the Angels earlier in the day.

Royals 4, Mariners 1

In Seattle, Eric Hosmer homered, Ian Kennedy took a shutout into the sixth inning, and the Kansas City Royals ended a long scoreless streak and a five-game skid with a victory over the Seattle Mariners.

Kennedy (3-2) gave up four hits and struck out six in five-plus innings. He loaded the bases in the sixth on two singles and a walk.

Forget winners, losers; think NFL draft trends

NEW YORK (AP)—Figuring out who won or lost in an NFL draft takes years, not hours. Finding trends is a whole lot easier.

Some were obvious, such as the love given Ohio State, and the disdain for 2015 bowl teams Tennessee, Duke and North Carolina.

The desire to find quarterbacks lasted from the first two picks through No. 223. The search for running backs was virtually an afterthought for three rounds, with only four going in the first 100.

A look at what NFL teams were thinking and doing in the 253-pick marathon.

BAGGING BUCKEYES: More than one observer has been asking how Ohio State didn't win the 2015 Big Ten title, let alone another national championship, after having 12 players selected.

The Chargers, Saints and Bills were most enamored of coach Urban Meyer's team with two selections each. The Giants, Jets, Cowboys, Lions, Texans and Seahawks each took one. Five Buckeyes went in the opening round.

Saints coach Sean Payton is friends with Meyer, which certainly didn't hurt as New Orleans considered and then took safety Vonn Bell and receiver Michael Thomas in the second round.

"He and I have been friends for a long time," Payton said. "I think it matters some."

Meyer, who worked portions of the draft for NFL Network, was beaming every time one of his players was chosen. And the first of those guys, defensive end Joey Bosa, paid tribute to the coach for paving the way to the NFL.

WINNING BREEDS WINNING: Rex Ryan could have been speaking for 31 other coaches when he noted how significant success on the college level is in the draft process.

"I think we have a lot of winners in our locker room, there's no question," the Bills coach said. "And when you bring these guys in, it only adds to that. They're used to winning, we expect to win, we want to win desperately, and these guys are coming in and knowing what it takes, albeit in the college level."

Buffalo's first four picks were from Clemson, Alabama and Ohio State. The Bills had six Florida State players on the roster entering the 2015 season.

The philosophy of concentrating on winning college programs stems from recruitment. The schools grabbing the most four and five-star high schoolers are the ones who produce the most and highest draft picks. We're talking the Ohio States, Alabamas, Clemsons and Florida States of the world.

QB SEARCH: Consider that the top two overall selections were Jared Goff of California and Carson Wentz of North Dakota State. Quarterbacks.

Now consider that last year, Jameis Winston and Marcus Mariota went 1-2. Quarterbacks.

The huge difference is that Winston and Mariota widely were viewed as can't-miss prospects. Goff and Wentz probably wouldn't have gone in the top half of the first round in 2015, even though both are solid players with big upsides.

Finding a franchise quarterback has become paramount for NFL clubs, so much so that the Rams and Eagles mortgaged much of their draft stock to get to the top of this grab bag.

There is more to the QB story, though.

In all, 15 passers were drafted; such college star quarterbacks as Keenan Reynolds and Braxton Miller will change positions in the pros. Not all were selected with the idea they will be long-term starters.

Rollers, Sonics players stand out in U18 league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Rollers and Sonics players topped four categories at the halfway mark of the U18 division of the Inaugural Frank M. Diaz Memorial Youth League.

In the scoring department, Rollers White's Jethro Cruz is ahead of the field after averaging 18.25 points in four games where he totaled 73. Rollers Blue's Aaron Ogumoro and Jun Alipio are ranked second and third after posting averages of 16.8 and 14.8 points per game. Ogumoro collected 84 points in five games, while Alipio recorded 74 in the same number of matches. Completing the scoring leaders are 670 Sonics' Djay Ong (13.6 points in 5 games), Rollers Blue's Christian Arceo (12 points in 5 games) and the Ol'Aces' Greg Sablan (10.5 in 4 games).

In the rebound department, Ong is on top of three others, while his teammate Jester Kintaro and Ogumoro lead in the blocks and steals categories, respectively.

Ong's 9 rebounds per game average in five matches (45 total) put him in a tie for first place with Kagman Riserz's Khalid Islam. Sablan (8.5 rebounds in four games/34 total) is at second place ahead of 670 Sonics' Mike Espinosa (8 per game/40 total), and Arceo (7.8 per game/39 total).

Kintaro is the lone player so far to register twin digits in blocks with his 12, living him with a 2.4 average in five games. The 670 Sonics center paces Sablan (1.5 average/6 total), Kagman's Darion Jones (1.2 average/6 total), the Ol'Aces Napu Atalig (1/4 total), and Rollers Red's Markel Toves (.75/3 total).

In the steals division, Ogumoro gained 24 in five games to average 4.8 per match and lead Kagman quarterback Andrew Palino, who averaged 3.6 as he got 18 in five games. Completing the Top 5 are the Ol'Aces Aiferson Atan (3.5 per game), Arceo (3), and Kagman's Melvin Sakisat (2.8).

In the assists division, Palino leads the field, as he totaled 15 in five games for an average of 3.4 per match. Palino this time is in front of Ogumoro, who has a second-best 2.8 average, followed by the similar 2.25 averages of the Junior Sonics' Renato Gaviola and Sablan, and the 1.8 of Ong.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Sonics' Jester Kintaro blocks a shot from a Wong player during their semis game in the boys U15 division of the Diaz youth caging last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Kintaro also plays inn the U18 age group and leads the division in blocks.

Leicester misses 1st chance to clinch Premier League title

MANCHESTER, England (AP)—Leicester missed its first opportunity to clinch the Premier League title, drawing 1-1 at Manchester United on Sunday to move within two points of the most unlikely championship in English soccer in a generation.

Second-place Tottenham, which is eight points behind Leicester, must beat Chelsea away on Monday to keep alive the title race.

Leicester fought back at Old Trafford after going behind to Anthony Martial's eighth-minute goal, with captain Wes Morgan heading in a free kick to equalize in the 17th. Leicester midfielder Danny Drinkwater was sent off in the 86th for a second yellow card.

A win would have sealed the title for Leicester, a modest team from central England that narrowly escaped relegation last season and entered bankruptcy protection only seven years ago while in the third tier. Leicester's remaining games are against Everton at home next weekend and Chelsea away on the final day of the season, but it might not go that far.

Leicester manager Claudio Ranieri was flying to his native Italy later Sunday to visit his 96-year-old mother. He will return on Monday, during the Chelsea-Spurs match.

"I will be the last man to know the result," Ranieri said with a laugh.

United's failure to win kept the team fifth and dented its ambitions of qualifying for the Champions League. But this game was all about Leicester, and whether Ranieri's team—a 5,000-1 longshot for the title with British bookmakers before the season—could achieve the seemingly impossible feat that would rank among the biggest underdog stories in sports.

The team known as "The Foxes" are still heavy favorites, and their vocal, flag-waving travelling contingent made that very clear as they chanted, "We're going to win the league" over and over after the final whistle.

It would be the most implausible top-flight title triumph since Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest won in 1978. So endearing is Leicester's story that even United supporters applauded the Leicester players off the field at Old Trafford.

"We had to dig in and be resilient," Morgan said. "It's a point and it's a step in the right direction."

Ranieri's team of rejects, journeymen and unheralded foreign players has been confounding the doubters all season and they did so again at the so-called "Theatre of Dreams."

Leicester had barely got out of its own half by the time Antonio Valencia cut inside from the right and sent over a cross that fell at the feet of Martial, who side-footed powerfully past Kasper Schmeichel at the far post.

DIZON

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rious in the four-team event (5:36:10), while Allen Perez joined Floro Drexes, Alex Gozon, and Jojo Valencio for a runner-up finish (5:55:26).

Ulysses Gania, Edgar Jabinar, Dennis Deala, and George Nazarino came in third at 5:57:30. Romy Ampit and John Dona were the top men's pair (5:29:09), besting Ernie Henzon and Noe Valdismo by nine seconds (5:29:18).

Noel Altamirano (5:17:18), Dencio Bautista (5:18:53), Winstom Omar (6:07:53), Jay Diyco (6:08:02), Susan Marchitti (8:24:10), and Krizandra Gozon (8:32:34) received special awards. Gozon and Marchitti also earned perseverance awards.

Tan Holdings, Tinian Mayor's Office, Tinian Municipal Council, Marianas Visitors Authority, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Department of Public Works, Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Taro Sue, Susan's Creation, and Bridge Investment Group helped organize the race.

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set match against the Land Down Under's Baijing Lin in the 2016 Junior Fed Cup by BNP Paribas Asia/Oceania Final Qualifying in India with the CNMI representative stunning her favored foe in the opening set, 6-2. In the second set, Lee forced Lin to a neck-and-neck game before falling, 5-7, while the latter completed the come-from-behind win with a 6-1 triumph in the deciding third set. After nearly pulling off an upset against Lin, Lee went on to beat four other players in last month's Junior Fed Cup.

"We don't want to put too much pressure on Carol, but with the way she has been playing this year and with her experience in off-island tournaments, she really has a strong chance of giving us the best finish in this tournament.

In the first two years that the CNMI hosted the Junior ITF-ranking events, the Commonwealth's best performance came from Mikayla Lopez, who made it to the semifinals of the girls singles.

While Race is expecting a lot from Lee, he sets a modest goal for the CNMI's other female players.

"If they could make it through the first round either in singles or doubles, that would be great because that means they will be able to get ranking points," Race said.

Based on the tournament's acceptance list as of yesterday, only Lee is assured of a slot in the singles' main draw so if there will be no changes, the seven other CNMI players need to go through a qualifying tournament and get a couple of wins to earn ranking points.

In the boys field, all six CNMI players are in the qualifying draw, but there could still be changes, as deadline for withdrawal is today and registration will not start until May 16.

From the boys list, Race is counting on Villanueva.

"On paper, Moris has the biggest chance to go further. But you can't really tell what will happen to the rest of our players, as their fate will also depend on the draws," Race said.

Besides the CNMI bets, this month's Grade 5 tournament, which awards 30 points to the singles champions and 20 (each) to the doubles winners, will also feature players from Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Palau, Chinese-Taipei, U.S., India, American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Philippines.

So far, Chinese-Taipei's Meng Cing-Yang is the highest-ranked player in the boys field at No. 124. In the girls division, Japan's Rika Tanaka is the top-ranked player at No. 295.

OL'ACES

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runs while striking out eight. Lufo Babauta relieved him at the start of the fifth and though the former allowed four hits and two earned runs, the closer found his rhythm and got three strikeouts at the bottom of the sixth with his third K leaving two runners stranded at third and second. Babauta also fanned out one batter in the fifth inning, ending IT&E's rally.

IT&E, which started the bottom of the fifth inning facing a 1-11 deficit, made a little headway after racking up five runs. Carpi Borja hit a two-RBI single in that rally, while IT&E's three other runs came off the Ol'Aces' defensive lapses to move within five, 6-11.

Earlier at the top of the fifth, the Ol'Aces turned a 4-1 advantage to a double-digit spread, 11-1, after seven out of the nine players from their top of the order scored. Raymond Salas and Ianna Hagishima each logged an RBI single and also reached off a wild pitch and an error, while Ohane Borja, Ken Kaipat, Macaranas, Nathan Aizon, and Latrell Leon Guerrero made it home, too. Hagishima added one more run at the top of the last inning off IT&E's miscue at shortstop to double up their foes.

IT&E failed to hit the board at the bottom of the sixth despite getting into scoring position. Ray Babauta led off for IT&E, but was struck out by Lufo Babauta, who also fanned out second batter Jesse Stole to move one out away from wrapping up the match. IT&E then found a new lease on life when Robert Tenorio singled and eventually reached third off a wild pitch and a hit from Keith Aldan. However, Tenorio and Aldan were left stranded, as Lufo Babauta, after a full count, got the third strike out on Patrick Celis.

With the win, the Ol'Aces improved their record to 7-4, pending the results of their last regular season game. The Ol'Aces were scheduled to challenge the second-running Kagman Little Legals, who entered last Sunday's match with an 8-3 mark.

IT&E fell to a 1-8 mark and must pray that cellar dweller Pirates, who hold a 0-9 slate pending results of the other games over the weekend, will not barge into the win column to get the last playoff berth. Only the Top 8 teams in the nine-squad field will advance to the single-elimination playoff round, which is slated to on May 14 as SLLB reserved the May 7 and 8 playing days for make-up games.

2016 FA Boys and Girls Challenge Cup Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MP United U12A players and officials pose with their championship trophy after beating Kanoa, 1-0, in the finals of the 2016 FA Boys and Girls Challenge Cup last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

MP United U12A keeper Richard Steele gets ready to kick the ball after a save.

MP United's Rintaro Miyawaki jumps to avoid contact against Kanoa's Wayne Lizama.

MP United U12A's Rohan Basnet, center, and two Kanoa players watch the latter's shot roll in.

MP United U12A and Kanoa U12 players exchange high-fives after their game.

MP United U12A's Rohan Basnet, third from left, is about to get a high-five from Sunjoon Tenorio, left, after scoring the game-winning goal.

Kanoa U12 players and coaches huddle after their title game against MP United U12A.

MP United U12A players, officials, and supporters celebrate after Rohan Basnet scored in the last 30 seconds of the match.

Warriors whip Blazers in opener of West semis

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Kershaw fans 14, leads Dodgers past Padres

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14 CNMI bets to join ITF Jr. event

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Fourteen CNMI players will be competing in the 2016 IT&E Northern Marianas Juniors Championships that Saipan will be hosting from May 17 to 22.

World No. 705 Carol Lee leads the select list and will be joined by Tammy Ackerman, Isabel Heras, Malika Miyawaki, Tania Tan, Mimi Sakano, Ami Tsukagoshi, and Asia Raulerson. In the boys field, Moris Villanueva tops the roster, which also has Vincent Tudela, Robbie Schorr, Tony Kim, Ken Song, and Steven Goodwin.

"Among our 14 players, Carol Lee has the potential to go all the way, defending on the draw. It will be interesting how she will play against higher-ranked players. She almost defeated the world No. 46 player from Australia, so she is capable of going further in this month's tournament," CNMI coach Jeff Race said in an interview with Saipan Tribune yesterday.

Race is talking about Lee's three-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Moris Villanueva makes a backhand return to Michael Ren during their semis game in the White Coconut Tennis Classic early this year at the Pacific Islands Club court. Villanueva and 13 other CNMI bets will be competing in the IT&E Northern Marianas Juniors Championships that Saipan will be hosting from May 17 to 22.

Ol'Aces top Regulators, get seventh win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Ol'Aces won the battle of telecommunication companies-backed teams in the Majors division of the 2016 Saipan Little League Baseball after outclassing the Regulators, 12-6, last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The Docomo-supported Ol'Aces leaned on Andre Macaranas' steady pitching in the first four innings to limit the IT&E-sponsored Regulators to one run and then banked on their seven-run bottom off the fifth en route to the victory.

Macaranas had a two-hitter in four innings, giving up no earned

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Docomo Ol'Aces' Lufo Babauta delivers a pitch to an IT&E batter during the bottom of the fifth inning of their Majors division game in the SLLB last Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Dizon, Hinds repeat as Tour de Tinian winners

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

KAMMER BEACH, Tinian—Nap Dizon and Kimberlyn King-Hinds proved to have the sturdier legs to rule the 4th Tour de Tinian held last Saturday during the San Jose Fiesta celebration.

Dizon won for the third straight year while it was back-to-back for Hinds.

Dizon clocked in at 5:10:18 to clinch the men's open crown in the 100-kilometer race around the island for a more than four-minute lead over runner-up Bob Ferrer (5:14:39). John Arceo was a close third as he was only 1:06 behind Ferrer at 5:15:45.

Hinds, on the other hand, enjoyed a close to one-hour advantage over Felicia Reynolds in their head-to-head matchup in the women's open. The Tinian bet finished the race in 5:55:29 against the 6:46:39 of Reynolds.

John Oliver Gonzales, Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog's chief of staff and the head of the CNMI delegation to the 12th Festival of the Pacific Arts in Guam, awarded the medals and cash prizes to all the winners.

Wynn Bryant Brillo won the battle of 16-year-olds after besting fellow teen Kenji Matias of Tinian in the Under-25 age group. Brillo clocked 5:31:21 against the 5:33:05 of Matias, who became the top Tinian finisher in the division. J.R. Libut was third at 5:52:55.

The Tinian Junior High School student Matias bested Charlie Cabreros by 29 seconds in the battle between the island's cyclists. Cabreros finished at 5:33:34, while Norlo Jacosalem was third at 5:44:13.

Jo Libut was the lone entry in the men's 26-35 division, while Ferdinand Ramos (5:26:17), Ricky Suba (5:32:17), and Cabreros (5:33:34) were 1-2-3 in the 36-45. Cesar Fortaleza topped the 46-over group (5:18:52), while Robert Tamondong (5:44:12) beat Jacosalem by a hairline (5:44:13).

The quartet of Robert Fajardo, Richard Lazaro, Fernando Cacabellos, and Rey Lopez emerged victo-

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JON PEREZ
Nap Dizon, center, celebrates at the podium after ruling the 4th Tour de Tinian last Saturday during the celebration of the San Jose fiesta in Tinian. Bob Ferrer, left, finished second, while John Arceo came in at third.